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COVER STORY

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDING AT FLOWER

By Teresa Delane

Alberta is blessed with three species of Hummingbirds. The only eastern North American species, the Ruby-throated, reaches its northern and western limits here, while the Rufous, so common in British Columbia, reaches its eastern limits in our mountains. The tiny Calliope, smallest of Canadian birds also trickles into our mountains from the south.

Teresa Delane is one of FAN's Lethbridge Directors.

OVERHEARD (51)

Canadian Potential

"Canada has the greatest potential for becoming the first major industrialized nation whose total energy demand is satisfied by clean, renewable solar energy processes!" - William E. Heronemus in "Energy Alternatives", New England Natural Food and Farming Association Bull., Spring 1975.

(Submitted by M. K. M.)

OVERHEARD (52)

"Assertions about the physical impossibility of animal activities have so often proved false that they should be closely scrutinized."
R. J. Pumphrey, 1960, Nature (London) 188: 1127

OVERHEARD (53)

"It would be too much to say that the Crow and the Lizard are the same bird. But there seems little doubt that the apex cervicus of the Lizard is the same structure as the rudimentary dorsal fin of the Crow."

(Stephen Leacock, 1926, "Winnowed Wisdom.")

TEETH FROM CARTILAGINOUS FISH IN ALBERTA

by G.R.A. Ebel

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Sharks, Rays and Ratfish have a skeleton of cartilage, a hard gristly material formed from certain proteins and strengthned by fibres, and are thus known as Cartilaginous Fishes. Cartilage does not lend itself to detailed preservation, and rarely are complete skeletons of this material found. For the most part, ossified (bony) teeth constitute the fossil record of these fishes indicating the past existence of sharks and their relatives in a watery environment.

The fossil record of Cartilaginous Fish teeth in Alberta is presently represented by twelve distinguishable species. Abundant quantities of certain representative Fish groups may be found at some localities in the Upper Milk River, Foremost and Oldman formations but rarely in the Edmonton Formation, and Drumheller Tongue and its equivalents. Notable exposures of all these formations occur in Dinosaur Provincial Park, in the Drumheller area and along the Milk River. (Johnston and Storer 1974.)

In general, Cartilaginous Fishes have teeth which function as piercing, cutting, or crushing devices. Slender cylindrical teeth at the side of the jaws of sharks function as piercing points for holding prey, while cutting or frontal teeth shear flesh. The latter teeth are normally broad, flattened, triangles with sharp, serrated or smooth, cutting edges. However, there are numerous variations in shape and size between the two extremes.

Teeth of rays and skates are flattened top to bottom, six-sided, and form a battery capable of grinding shelled animals.

Sawfishes and their relatives have two sets of teeth which differ in shape and function. Pointed or rostral teeth occur along the sides of the extended snout. These teeth are used for impaling

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prey, and the rostrum is used for probing sandy bottoms. Blunt teeth that occur in the mouth help crush the prey.

Chimareas (Ratfish) and their relatives have solid, slow-growing plates instead of replaceable teeth.

Teeth from Cartilaginous Fishes found in Alberta (Fox 1974, Storer and Johnson 1974, Gardiner 1966) are listed below:

Class Chondrichthyes
Subclass Elasmobranchii

Order Selachii
Suborder Hybodontidae
Family Hybodontidae
Species Scoliorhiza kellyi

Locality: Upper Rocky River. From the lower part of the Rundle limestone, a short distance above the contact with the Banff shale. Lower Carboniferous.

Family Ptychodontidae
Genus Ptychodus

Locality: Peace River, 20 miles above the mouth of the Battle (Notikawin) River. Peace River sandstone. Lower Cretaceous.

Family Edestidae
Genus Lissoprion, (Helicoprion)

Locality: Sundance Canyon, Banff. Rocky Mountain group (phosphate horizon). Upper Carboniferous.

Suborder Heterodontoidei
Family Heterodontidae
Species Palaeospinax ejuncidus

Locality: 3 miles north of Tolman on the east side of the Red Deer River, 350' above water mark. Upper Edmonton member. Upper Cretaceous.

Suborder Galeoidea
Family Isuridae
Genus Lamna

Localities: Patricia. Basal Bearpaw. Upper Cretaceous. Red Deer River. From the Edmonton beds (Lower Edmonton member) and from the Oldman Formation. Upper Cretaceous.

Genus Isurus

Locality: Etzikom Coulee, Foremost. Foremost beds. Upper Cretaceous (Campanian)

Order Batoidea
Suborder Pristoidea
Family Pristidae
Species Ischyrhiza mira.

Locality: Philip Coulee, near Pinhorn Grazing Reserve; Whiterock Coulee, South Saskatchewan River, west of Pivot; South Saskatchewan River, south of Suffield; south Saskatchewan River, north of Bow Island, upper part of the Foremost Formation.

Suborder Myliobatoidea
Family Dasyatidae
Genus Myledaphus

Localities: 1) Red Deer River (below Berry Creek), Belly River series (particularly Oldman Formation). Upper Cretaceous.
2) Red Deer River. Edmonton Formation. Upper Cretaceous.
3) Northwest of Rumsey. From about 150 feet below the top of the Edmonton beds and 20 feet above the uppermost of the coal seams (seam no. 12). Upper Cretaceous.
4) Milk River formation, Southern Alberta. Upper Cretaceous (Campanian).
5) Southeast of Deadhorse Coulee. From about 50' above

the lower Milk River sandstone. Upper Cretaceous (Campanian).

6) Little Sandhill Creek, Badlands. Oldman Formation. Upper Cretaceous (Campanian)

7) Oldman Formation at Manyberries.

Subclass Holocephali
Order Chimaeriformes
Suborder Chimaeroidei
Family Chimaeridae
Species Chimaerotheca stelchi

Localities: From 1023 feet above the base of the Nikanassin formation on the Sulphur and Sheep Rivers (tributaries of the Smoky River) in the foothills of the Peace River District. Upper Jurassic. Steveville. Oldman Formation. Upper Cretaceous.

Suborder Cochliodontei
Family Cochliodontidae
Genus Deltodus

Locality: The Gap, Livingstone Range, north of Lundbreck.

Order Selachii
Suborder Hybodontoidea
Family Hybodontidae
Genus Lonchidion

Locality: Upper Milk River Formation.

Family Helodontidea
Species Helodus Subtuberatus

Localities: Roche Miette, near Jasper Lake, 30 miles northeast of the Yellowhead Pass. Upper Devonian.

North side of the Athabasca River at Brule Lake, on the eastern slope of Bullrush Mountain. Upper Devonian.

Literature Cited

Fox, R. C. 1974. A primitive therian mammal from the Upper Cretaceous of Alberta. Can. J. Earth Sci.

Gardiner, B.C. 1966. Catalogue of Canadian fossil fishes. R. Ont. Mus., Life Sci. Contrib. 68

Johnson, H., and J. E. Storer. 1974. A guide to Alberta, vertebrate fossils from the age of Dinosaurs. Prov. Mus. Alberta. Publ. 4., Edmonton.

Storer, J.E., and H. Johnson. 1974. Ischyrhiza (Chondrichythyes: Pristidae)from the Upper Cretaceous Foremost Formation (Campanian) of Alberta. Can. J. Earth Sci.

MUSKRAT, MARBLED GODWIT AND WILLET FEEDING ON STICKLEBACKS AT BEAVERHILL LAKE

By Dick Dekker
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At its present level, Beaverhill Lake appears to be too shallow to provide year-round habitat for Fish larger than Sticklebacks. However, when measured in pounds of fish per acre, its productivity may well exceed that of our most renowned northern trophy lakes. Sticklebacks occur in densities great enough to support thousands of grebes and gulls, and hundreds of pelicans, herons, terns, cormorants and bitterns. To this list of animals that feed wholly or partially on Fish, may be added Muskrats and two species of shorebirds that do not normally consume fish and may have acquired that habit because of the great abudance of such food available.

On May 6, 1976, I watched Marbled Godwits dispatch five sticklebacks within half an hour. Also a Willet caught one along a section of a shallow shoreline. Each bird held the fish in the tip of its bill, shaking and pinching it, dropping it several

times and picking it up again, before finally swallowing the food.

On May 30, 1976, I was quietly sitting on the Ducks Unlimited dam, a great place to observe the many species of diving birds in their quest for sticklebacks, when a Muskrat appeared. Just before reaching the sandy shore of a small island, it dived and emerged with a small Fish that was held sideways in the Rat's mouth. On land, the animal transferred its catch, which flopped vigorously as proof that it was alive, to its front feet. The Fish was held upside down, and the Rat consumed it by biting off chunks from the tail down. After its meal was finished, the rat licked its paws for a minute and re-entured the water. It caught and ate 20 more Fish in about 45 minutes. Finally, before swimming away, the Rat cut two mouthfuls of green grass for a dessert.

In the literature available to me, I found the following information on the food of the Muskrat:
Soper (1964) mentions only juicy plants. Murie (1954) writes that the Muskrat is not entirely vegetarian and may feed on mollusks and clams. Beside plants, Banfield (1974) lists fresh-water mussels, small turtles, frogs, salamanders and slow-moving Catfish. Errington (1963) also briefly mentions fishing behavior by Muskrats.

Literature Cited:

Banfield, A.W.F., 1974. The Mammals of Canada. , Information Canada, Ottawa. Errington, P.L. 1963. Muskrat populations. Iowa State University Press, Ames. Murie, J., 1954. A field guide to animal tracks. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. Soper, J., 1964. The mammals of Alberta. Hamly Press, Edmonton.

OVERHEARD (54)

" A little known but extremely beneficial side effect of snowmobiling is its effect on hearing. Human hearing can be compared to a body muscle; if it's not used, it atrophies. Noise levels of the average snowmobile, around 82 decibels at 50 feet, really give your ears a workout - as though your sense of hearing were doing pushups."
Norman B. Brandson, 1975. Manitoba Nature 16 (4):37.

THE GREAT DIVIDE TRAIL - BANFF TO WATERTON

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The Great Divide Trail is visualized as a long distance hiking and equestrian trail running along, adjacent to or over the Continental Divide OUTSIDE of the National Parks. It is hoped that the Great Divide trail will act as a backbone to a network of trails within the Forest Reserves of Alberta and British Columbia. The route is planned to traverse both the valley and alpine regions but will be located primarily in sub-alpine areas.

WHY THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE?

The Continental Divide forms the boundary between the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia from the 49th parallel of latitude to the most northerly crossing of 120 degrees of longitude. Here are the origins of streams for three watersheds: The Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. The Divide is a geologic entity consisting of a chain of mountain ranges which tend to produce orographic precipitation on their western flanks and a rain shadow on their eastern slopes. Historically it has been a barrier to man, and the mountain passes are rich in Indian lore and pioneer artifacts.

The nature of the Continental Divide region lends itself well to a long distance trail concept for the following reasons:
(1) As a geologic entity the Continental Divide provides a unifying concept to the long-distance trail idea. This is in keeping with the tradition laid down by previously established long-distance trails which tend to follow geologic features, for example, The Appalachian Trail, (established in 1937), the Bruce Trail, (established in 1967), running along the Niagara Escarpment in Southern Ontario, and the Pacific Crest Trail, as yet incomplete, which runs through the Sierra and Cascade Ranges in the Western United States.

(2) There is a definite appeal associated with straddling the backbone of the North American Continent -- to know that this is the point where the waters divide to form the headwaters of many major rivers draining the continent.

(3) The scenic quality as well as the geologic, geographic, and biologic features of this region are major attractions to the trail. The contrast in vegetation between the rain shadow area of the east slopes and the moist, densely forested western flanks will provide an interesting contrast and add to the diversity of trail surroundings.

(4) An appreciation of the role the mountain barrier played during the history of man in the area could be gained when travelling through the area. The historic Indian trails, the old pioneer campsites, and the weathered boundary markers are intriguing aspects of the Continental Divide region.

LAND USE CONFLICTS

The Great Divide Trail Association, as current sponsor of the Great Divide Trail, recognises that land use conflicts exist. These are, we feel, open to discussion: discussion which the Association seeks to encounter and thereby endeavor to resolve.

Of the land use conflicts, the major current problems lie with resource development. As an area rich in mineral resources, particularly coal, the Divide is certainly going to be, (and in places already is), open to exploitation. However, the proposed trail is not necessarily fixed in location, and is certainly moveable onto reclaimed sites as new areas are mined. We should note in passing that in Alberta the new coal policy, combined with the Minister of the Environment's statements about alpine and subalpine regions indicates little real conflict.

Conflicts with lumbering is much less problematic, as the proposed trail is already planned to run adjacent to clear cut slopes, and as with coal leases, the trail can be re-aligned should such relocation be essential.

Notwithstanding accommodations which might be achieved with existing leaseholders, the Great Divide Trail Association would wish to see established a protective corridor system in which no new conflicting developments would be allowed to take place. This corridor plan would be similar in concept to the U.S. Forest Service's Visual Management System. The width of the corridor may change according to the environs through which the Trail passes. In highly developed regions, such as the Crowsnest Pass, the corridor would be rather narrow, but in wild areas, such as the Cadorna Creek valley in British Columbia or Dutch Creek in Alberta, a wide corridor, perhaps four to five miles in width would be in order.

MAN'S INVASION OF WILDERNESS

The Great Divide Trail Association envisions that use of the trail be restricted to non-mechanized forms, thus A.T.V.'s,trail bikes, snowmobiles etc., would not be permitted. Horses, therefore, are acceptable, a position based upon the long tradition of horse use in the Divide area. Large trains of horses would be discouraged.

Man's intrusion into the Divide will certainly have impact on the environment, and all too sadly, we must acknowledge that occasional abuse will take place. However, the degree of abuse or overuse which might possibly occur, would clearly be minimal in comparison with the damage currently being induced by trail bikes and A.T.V.'s. We may reasonably assume that impact by trail users will be further minimized by the Great Divide Trail Association's function in trail maintenance.

Since most of the trail is proposed to follow old seismic cuts, pack trails, historic trails and exploration roads little new trail construction would be needed. Should the trail be limited to use as outlined, then seismic cuts and exploration roads would revert to prime hiking trails.

The Great Divide Trail Association cordially invites enquiries into its proposal, and thanks the editor of the Alberta Naturalist for affording this opportunity to review the association's hopes with members of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists.

THE PLIGHT OF THE WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST WHITE PELICAN COLONY

by Jacques Van Pelt,
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Five miles from the place where the Slave River leaves Alberta, flowing into the Northwest Territories, the world's northernmost White Pelican nesting colony on a river island in tumultuous waters, is in trouble. (Present breeding pop.: ca 60.)
Federal books show no protection or enforcement on the site or on the bird. Alberta books show protection on the bird, but nothing on the site, or enforcement. This spectacular corridor is not very well known or protected by Albertans.

The PELICAN-PORTAGE GROUP of Fort Smith, NWT, only a few miles from the above-mentioned rookery, would like Albertans to know that if serious protective measures by joint federal-provincial-territorial agencies are not taken within the next year or two, these human and natural resources could well be wiped out by free-for-all "progress" in a little known 'developing' frontier.

Some attempts, however are being made, piecemeal, and without enforcement:

a) A Public Hearing at Town Hall, Fort Smith, called by Alta. Fish and Wildlife, in 1974, between local interests and government biologists.
b) A five-year census data study, with some Boreal Institute seed money, a local animal behaviourist, and some volunteers.
c) A federal Notam (Notice to all Airmen) on annual basis in an attempt to avoid flights closer than 2000 ft to the rookery.
d) A brief being prepared by the PLICAN/PORTAGE GROUP, calling official attention to the problem by the end of 1976.
e) An interagency information meeting, in Edmonton, end October 1976, sparked by Nat. & Prov. Assoc. Can., Edmonton chapter.
f) Two interpretive signs on site, by Alta. Fish &

Wildlife to indicate that a study is in progress, April-September each year.

g) Locally guided interpretive walks, slide talks, by PELICAN/PORTAGE GROUP.

IN 1907,

When E. T. Seton visited this rookery at close range and caused the deathchill of many chicks for photography reasons, that rookery was five times as large in production by the end of June, as it is today.

Alberta lost no less than eight White Pelican rookeries to human interference since the turn of the century. Will also this rookery, closer to a growth centre than any other known White Pelican rookery, be allowed to be wiped out in spite of efforts by citizens living nearby, but not in a position to legislate or enforce?

The hour is late. More detailed information on how you can help appeared in the June issue of ALBERTA NATURALIST, or from THE SECRETARY, PELICAN/PORTAGE GROUP.

ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1975: ADDITION AND CORRECTION

As noted in Virginia Lang's compilation of the 1975 Christmas Bird Counts in Alberta (Alberta Naturalist 6: 76-82, 1976), the Red Deer count had mysteriously gone astray. Maxine O'Riordon has now rectified this deficiency in the record by sending us the following report of the Alberta Natural History Society Count. This Red Deer count adds no new species to the 1975 list, the total remaining at 68, but boosts the total of individuals counted to about 28,506 birds, counted by 173 participants.

Helen Schuler of Lethbridge reports that she was incorrectly credited with compiling her city's count. Credit should have gone to BETTY HAIG.

Alberta Natural History Club Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 25, 1975.

Sixteen participants spent about 50 hours in a search of the city ravines, residential areas, some stretches of the Blindman River, and Gaetz Lake Sanctuary. The temperature was 0 to 3 degrees Celsius; overcast and fairly windy. Nineteen species were spotted, with a total count of about 896 birds.

Rock Dove 61; Great Horned Owl 2; Snowy Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 7; Black-billed Magpie 47; Black-capped Chickadee 96; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Bohemian Waxwing 396; Common Starling 2; House Sparrow 98; Evening Grosbeak 213; Pine Grosbeak 7; White-winged Crossbill 9; Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored race) 1; Snow Bunting 15. Participants: Peggy Evans; Margaret Glabais; Kevin Graboski: Helen, Herb, and Ley Harris; David Jones; Bob Marston; Nancy Moodie; Chris Nelson; Bill Nesbitt; Beth Peth; Jennifer and Michael O'Brien; Maxine O'Riordon; Fred Schutz.

Mr. David Jones, an avid birder from St. Louis, Missouri, was in the area on Christmas vacation, and joined our group. The day ended in a social setting with good food and slides presentations of A. N. H. S. rambles by Helen Harris and Fred Schutz.

RESULTS OF THE 1976 MAY SPECIES COUNT DAY

PART 1 BIRDS AND MAMMALS

by D.V. (Chip) Weseloh,
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Earlier this year (AN March, 1976), it was proposed that a Provincial Species Count Day be held on the week-end of 29/30 May. The purpose of this count was to provide a single week-end when naturalists across Alberta could tally-up and count the species of birds, mammals and plants in flower in their area. There were no geographical bounds, except Alberta's borders and hence a slight

competitive flavour was introduced for those who wished to take advantage of it.

The various area results have been coming to me over the last two months and I have had a chance to tally some of them. The results of the Bird and Mammal counts are presented in Table 1 at the end of this article; the results of the plant counts will appear in the next issue of AN.

In Table 1, I have used a plus(+) to indicate an unspecific number of individuals reported. This sometimes appears alone or with a number indicating minimum number observed. An asterisk(*) indicates that the reporting party found definite breeding evidence (nest with eggs or flightless young) for that species in their area.

Because of the large number (five and six) of party reports for Some areas I have had to combine results on the basis of geographical areas. Hopefully local clubs will publish the results of individual parties where there is sufficient interest.

In addition to the tabular presentation of the Count Day results given in Table 1, I have listed below: 1) Area reports summarizing where each team went, time and miles covered and who participated and 2) a short discussion of results, indicating any interesting ornithological findings or distributions of birds (or mammals) on our Count Day.

Area Reports

1. Banff: Co-ordinator - Mr. Geoff Holroyd.

Nine members of the Bow Valley Naturalists Club formed four Count Day parties on 29 and/or 30 May. Mammals and birds in the Park were recorded by three of the our parties. The fourth party recorded plants from the Calgary Power Lease near Seebe. A total of 38 party hours were spent in the field; total party miles were not recorded but one party covered 25 miles by car and six by foot. The Banff group recorded a total of 89 bird species and had the team high of 13 mammal species.

Participants: Ed Carleton, Keith Cole, Halle Flygare, Geoff Holroyd, Liz Holroyd, Diane McIvor, Mike McIvor, Bob Smith, Mary Smith.

2. Devon

Three naturalists from Devon spent the 24 hour period starting at 4:p.m. on 29 May recording Birds within five miles of their community. They recorded 71 Bird species.

Participants: Alexandra Hochachka, Louis Hochachka and Wesley Hochachka.

3. Edmonton: Co-ordinator - Mr. Richard Palindat.

Messrs. Terry Thormin and Al Wisely were the only Edmonton Count Day participants who submitted their results. Working together they searched the Elk Island Park - Beaverhill Lake - St. Albert - Edmonton area for the 24 hour period starting at 10:00 A.M. on 29 May. They are to be congratulated for amassing a total of 119 Bird species during this period. This is the highest total reported by any single (or area) team. They covered a total of 318 miles and were in the field for 15 of the 24 hours.

4. High River-Calgary: Co-ordinator - Mr. Greg Wagner.

Messrs. Greg Wagner and Peter Allen comprised the sole party from the High River-Calgary area. Their route took them from High River to Black Diamond, the Morley Indian Reserve, Cochrane, Calgary and Frank Lake. They covered 320 miles by car and three miles on foot in their 16 hour foray. Greg admits that after that "... I'm ready for the Indy 500!" Their total of 102 species was the second highest of any reporting group.

5. Lethbridge: Co-ordinator - Mrs. Helen Schuler.

Sixteen Lethbridge area naturalists turned out for their 30 May Count Day. They amassed a total of 23 miles by foot, 208 by auto and conducted their count within 18 miles of Lethbridge. In addition to the 97 Bird species listed in Table 1, Mrs. Schuler adds that the following five Bird species were "... seen two weeks

either way of Count Day." White-faced Ibis, Lazuli Bunting, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Red-eyed Vireo and and a Varied Thrush.

The naturalists who participated were not identified.

6. Red Deer: Co-ordinator - Mr. Eldon Neufeld

Fourteen Red Deer area naturalists formed into six parties for their Count Day on 30 May. Two parties recorded plants, mammals and birds, three parties recorded birds only and one party recorded birds and mammals. They covered 160 party miles (152 by auto and four each on foot and by horseback) and observed 82 bird and six mammal species.

Mr. Newfeld reports that: "The event was concluded with a pot-luck supper at the Oldtimer's Campground, just west of the City at 5:00 p.m on Sunday, May 30th. Although only 14 persons participated as observers, there were about 25 people at the supper".

Participants: Dorothy Broadbent, Geoff Broadbent, Alvin Goetz, Erling Glabis, Margaret Glabis, Adeline Nesbitt, Bill Nesbitt, Carol Neufeld, Eldon Newfeld, Alice Odenbrush, Maxine O'Riordan, Herman Odenbrush, Fred Schutz, Gertrude Schutz.

7. Stettler: Co-ordinator - Mrs. Virginia Maitland

Twelve members of the Buffalo Lake Naturalists formed into five parties for their 30 May Species Count Day. Four of the parties recorded plants, mammals and birds; one party recorded birds and mammals only. Local areas covered included Ewing Lake, Red Deer River, Shooting Lake, south of Stettler, Buffalo Lake and White Sands. Approximately 258 party-miles were covered; 82 bird species and three mammal species were recorded.

Participants: Edith Clark, Grant Clark, Grace Grabill, Mary Grabill, Miss Hansen, Mrs. Hansen, Lloyd Lohr, Adam Maitland, Virginia Maitland, Bill Mulbach, Mary Mulbach, Eric Smith.

8. Turner Valley (Miller Biological Station): Co-ordinator- Mr. David M. Ealey

Twelve field personnel from the R. B. Miller Biological Station near Turner Valley formed six parties for their 30 May Species Count Day; plants, mammals and birds were recorder. Their counting was confined, for the most part, to the mixed coniferous-aspen forest between 4,500 and 5,500 feet above sea level, between three and 20 miles west of the Bow-Crow Forest Reserve Gate near the Sheep River. They recorded 49 Bird species and nine Mammal species.

Participants: David Ealey, Richard Foote, Margaret Harris, Ross Lein, Valerie Loewen, Ali McLean, Jeffrey Nicholas, Dennis Nuget, Kevin Nuget, John Vandy and Andrew Wroot.

9. Yamnuska: Co-ordinator - Mr. Geoff Holroyd

Six members of the Bow Valley Naturalists' Club formed one party on 29 May and recorded plants, mammals and Birds near Mt. Yamnuska (Laurie) They covered eight party miles by car, 13 on foot and spent a total of 16 party hours in the field. They recorded 40 Bird species and three Mammal species.

Participants: Joyce Cole, Keith Cole, Diane McIvor, Mike McIvor, Bob Smith and Mary Smith.

Discussion of Results

Looking over the great list of species and columns of figures in Table 1, I first find myself noticing those Bird species which are indicated for every or nearly every area. A quick tabulation shows that the following 11 species were recorded in all nine geographical areas where counts were held:

Mallard	Eastern Kingbird	American Robin
Common Snipe	Tree Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Common Flicker	Common Crow	

The following Birds (11 species as well) were recorded in eight of the nine reporting areas:

Canada Goose	Least Flycatcher	Yellow- rumped Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Black-billed Magpie	Common Yellowthroat
American Kestrel	Black-capped Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Killdeer	Common Starling	

Thus 22, or 12% of the total 186 different bird species reported were seen in all or nearly all reporting areas. By taxonomic orders these 22 species have the following breakdown: Three are waterfowl,one is a raptor, three are shorebirds, one is a woodpecker and 14 are passerines (songbirds).

On the other side of the coin, there are those species that were reported only rarely, i. e. from only one area. There are 49 of these and while I will not list them individually, they have the following breakdown by orders and can be located quite easily in Table 1: one is a Heron, two are Waterfowl, six are Raptors, one is a Grouse, ten are Shorebirds, three are Owls, one is a Woodpecker and 25 are Passerines.

Examining Table 1, I find the non-montane distribution of grebes to be obvious; the Red-necked Grebes of Banff are perhaps noteworthy. The Swan (sp.) record, which came from Frank Lake is interesting as are the Cinnaman Teal records from Banff and Stettler.

The distribution of Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks is what would be expected but the appearance of three Rough-legged Hawks at Red Deer is of note. I find the large number (15) of Ospreys from Banff surprising and encouraging; a nest at First Vermilion Lake has been active for a number of years and is presumably among those indicated.

The reports of Long-billed Curlews well exhibit their provincial distribution and the host of Shorebirds from Edmonton (Beaverhill Lake) indicates that their migration was still in progress on Count Day. The distribution of two of our largest breeding shorebirds (Marbled Godwits and American Avocets) is well exemplified (though they must have been overlooked in the Red Deer area!). Gull and tern distribution and numbers are what one would expect.

Owls and Hummingbirds show no peculiarities, though Short-eared Owls do not seem to be present in their usual number. Also, it is always nice to see Alberta records of Calliope Hummingbirds.

Perhaps the most interesting record, to me, of the entire May Day Count is that of the two (!) Red-headed Woopeckers from Red Deer. There were no details submitted with the record but surely this sighting is of sufficient significance to warrant a submission to the Alberta Ornithological Records Committee (as is the ibis record from Lethbridge!).

The Varied Thrush record from Turner Valley is of note as are the records of Townsend's Solitaire and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Loggerhead Shrike records were low and probably reflect the general decrease in abundance of this species over the years.

The low numbers of some warblers (Townsend's through Mac Gillivry's reflect both their scarcity (Townsend's Bay-breasted) and the distribution of their breeding habitat away from Alberta population centres (Blackpoll, Northern Waterthrush). Also, I would have expected to see a few more records of Ovenbird.

The lack of Bobolink records is not surprising and Yellow-headed Blackbirds show their preference for the more easterly areas of the province as compared to the Red-winged Blackbirds. The distribution of Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds are correctly shown to compliment one another and Brown-headed Cowbirds occur province-wide.

Although the provincial status of the Western Tanager and Rose-breasted Crosbeak is 'fairly common' (Salt & Wilk, 1966) they seem to have eluded many observers; a tendency which I can confirm from any number of experiences. The Evening Grosbeak and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch records are interesting and the Lark Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee and Lark Sparrow records are ones that most Alberta birdwatchers probably don't get in an average year. The Swamp Sparrow sightings, especially those from Banff are also of special note as Salt & Wilk (1966) state that this species '... has not been recorded in the mountains and the foothills".

Mammal records are of the more obvious species and their distributions are what would be expected. The abundance of Columbian Ground Squirrels can be astounding. It is of interest that Banff and Turner Valley, montane and foothills areas, had the highest Mammal totals while the prairie and parkland area had the lowest.

Salt, W. R., and A. L. Wilk 1966. The Birds of Alberta (2nd edition) Government of Alberta, Edmonton.

BIRDS

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High River-Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Common Loon	1			2					1
Red-necked Grebe	5		2	1			10*		
Horned Grebe		4	2	+	2	2	14		
Eared Grebe			2	+	29	12	+		
Western Grebe			8		2				
Pied-billed Grebe		2	1				1		
Great Blue Heron			1	5	5		1+		
Black-crowned Night Heron			6						
American Bittern	4		1						
Swan sp.				3					
Canada Goose	8	+	14	30	97	97	45*		2
Mallard	40	27	4	+	205	104	189*	4*	3
Gadwall	1		2	+	7		24		
Pintail		4	2	+	92	35	33+		
Green-winged Teal	11	12	2	+	3	8	45	3	
Blue-winged Teal	24	16*	6	+	47	60	100+	1	
Cinnamon Teal	8			+	13		5		
American Wigeon			2	+	3	25	43		
Northern Shoveler		6	+	+	39	14	20		
Redhead		6	2	+	7	24	13+		
Ring-necked Duck	61		4	+					7
Canvasback		3	2	+	45	4	65		
Lesser Scaup	2	12	4	+	24	104	65+		
Common Goldeneye		13	1			3			
Barrow's Goldeneye	32		2	8					4
Bufflehead		2	2	2	11	4	11		3
Harlequin Duck				2					
White-winged Scoter			2		8		2		
Ruddy Duck		2	2	+	1	15	9		
Common Merganser	11			2	7				
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1			
Red-tailed Hawk		3	1	+	4	8	1	1	
Broad-winged Hawk		1	1						
Swainson's Hawk		1	1	+	9	13	1		
Rough-legged Hawk						3			
Ferruginous Hawk					1				
Golden Eagle				+		1			
Bald Eagle	4								

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High River–Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Marsh Hawk			1	2*	2	4	5		
Osprey	15								
Prairie Falcon					2				
Merlin			1			2			
American Kestrel	2	1	2	+	6	20	3		2
Spruce Grouse								5	
Ruffed Grouse	4		1			4	1	8	3
Ring-necked Pheasant			1	2	3				
Gray Partridge				2	13	1			
Sora	1		1	2				1	3
American Coot	9	24	2	+	69	78	31+		
Killdeer	4	7	+	+	72*	13	15+		1
Black-bellied Plover				2	84				
Common Snipe	12	3	1	+	5	5	5+	1	1
Long-billed Curlew				1	9				
Spotted Sandpiper	11	11	1	+	7	4	2	7	3
Solitary Sandpiper									1
Greater Yellowlegs	3								1
Lesser Yellowlegs		4	1		3		3		
Willet			2	+	20		1+		
Ruddy Turnstone			1						
Red Knot			1						
Sanderling			75+						
Semipalmated Sandpiper			1						
Pectoral Sandpiper			4						
Short-billed Dowitcher			2						
Marbled Godwit			10	+	16		2+		
American Avocet			4	+	17		2		
Wilson's Phalarope		4	10	+	30	4	16		
Northern Phalarope			15						
California Gull			4	+			2		
Ring-billed Gull	12	2	10	+	+	25	36+		
Franklin's Gull		2	3	+	65	49			
Bonaparte's Gull			6						
Forster's Tern			3						
Common Tern			1	8	51	2			
Black Tern		33	2	+	2	43	19+		
Rock Dove		2	2	+	116	11	5		
Mourning Dove	2		1	+	30	14	6		
Great Horned Owl				5*		1	7*		
Long-eared Owl	1								
Short-eared Owl					4				
Saw-whet Owl	2								

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High-River-Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Owl sp.			1						
Common Nighthawk			1				1		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird							1		
Rufous Hummingbird	1							1	
Calliope Hummingbird									1
Belted Kingfisher	2		1	1					1
Common Flicker	23	1	1	1	9	3	5*	7	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1		1			1	1	
Red-headed Woodpecker						2			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			+	1		1		3	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1		1			1		
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	1						
Eastern Kingbird	3	1	2	+	23	2	5	4	1
Western Kingbird					23				
Eastern Phoebe		4	1	+		2	3*	2	
Say's Phoebe					1		1		
Alder Flycatcher			1						
Least Flycathcer	2	18	2	+	3	3	1		1
Dusky Flycatcher								8	
Western Wood Pewee	1	4	2	+	1				
Olive-sided Flycatcher		2	1						
Horned Lark			1	+	106	2	1		
Violet-green Swallow	7			+					4
Tree Swallow	13	10	4	+	55	182	28*	2	6
Bank Swallow	50	6	20	+	42	70	30		
Rough-winged Swallow				+	11				3
Barn Swallow	15	5	6	+	66	64	16+*	6	2
Cliff Swallow	52+	1		+	144	185			
Purple Martin		5	2			12	3		
Gray Jay	6								8
Blue Jay		2	3			3			
Black-billed Magpie	43	10	3	+	66	34	11		1
Common Raven	58			+				5	1
Common Crow	32	4	2	+	37	67	70+	1	4
Clark's Nutcracker	2								5
Black-capped Chickadee	3	2	1	+	1	5	2	9	
Mountain Chickadee	7								2
Boreal Chickadee			1	+		1		3	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6		1			2		4	1
American Dipper	1							1	
House Wren	2	4	1	1	33	19	13*		
Long-billed Marsh Wren			1						

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High River-Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Gray Catbird			1	2	3		2		
Brown Thrasher					2				
American Robin	21	12	3	5*	98	66	19+	33	14
Varied Thrush								1	
Hermit Thrush								8	
Swainson's Thrush	10			1	9				1
Veery	1		6		2		1		
Mountain Bluebird	4			3	1	18	22*		1
Townsend's Solitaire	1							2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					3		6	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	22	1	2	1				12	2
Sprague's Pipit					1				
Cedar Waxwing	1	2			4	4		+	
Loggerhead Shrike							1		
Common Starling	47+	5	4	+	100	150	52+	1	
Red-eyed Vireo		7	2			2		1	
Warbling Vireo	5		1			1		19	
Tennessee Warbler	2	1	1					2	
Orange-crowned Warbler	4								
Yellow Warbler	2	10	2	3	2		7		1
Magnolia Warbler	9								
Yellow-rumped Warbler	24	1	1	+	1	4		58	7
Townsend's Warbler	1								
Bay-breasted Warbler	1								
Blackpoll Warbler					3				
Ovenbird			1						
Northern Waterthrush	1								
Mourning Warbler		1							
MacGillivray's Warbler	1								
Common Yellowthroat	26	3	1	+	14		1	4	1
Wilson's Warbler	20			+				9	
American Redstart	15			1	1			4	
House Sparrow	57+	7	+	+	164	66	5+		
Western Meadowlark	1		1	+	114	3	14		
Yellow-headed Blackbird		5	8	+	68	43	19+		
Red-winged Blackbird	61+	25+	6	+	90	95	70+	7	25+
Northern Oriole		2	1	2	12	8	8		
Rusty Blackbird	3								
Brewer's Blackbird		9	4	+	92	152	28+		
Common Grackle			5	+	17	10	15+		
Brown-headed Cowbird	131		2	+	43	3	35	15	
Western Tanager			2		6				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		2	1						
Evening Grosbeak						4			
Purple Finch		3	2			2			
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	1								

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High River-Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Pine Siskin	31	3	6	+				34	
American Goldfinch	1		2	3	38	20	8	1	
Red Crossbill	6								
Rufous-sided Towhee					5				
Lark Bunting					2				
Savannah Sparrow	1	4	4	+	39	1	5		
LeConte's Sparrow		4	2				2		
Vesper Sparrow			2	+	20		10		
Lark Sparrow					11				
Dark-eyed Junco	17		1	+		4		25	2
Chipping Sparrow	96+	6	2	+	4	11	2	55	25+
Clay-colored Sparrow		3	1	+	16	17	10+		
White-crowned Sparrow	14			1	3	3		8	
White-throated Sparrow		6	3	+		7	1		
Lincoln's Sparrow	2		1					2	2
Swamp Sparrow	7		1		3				
Song Sparrow	9	9	1	+	2	1	1+		1
Chestnut-collared Longspur				+	152*				
TOTAL:	89	71	119	102	97	82	82	49	40

MAMMALS

Species/Reporting Area									
Pika								6	
Least Chipmunk	2								4
Chipmunk sp.								6	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel				+		1	4+		
Columbian Ground Squirrel	125+							31	
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	1							2	
Red Squirrel	28			+		6		25	12
Beaver	3					2			
Muskrat	5			+		2	8+		
Richardson's Water Vole								1	
Meadow Vole						1		1	

Species/Reporting Area	Banff	Devon	Edmonton	High River-Calgary	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Stettler	Turner Valley (Miller Biol. Station)	Yamnuska
Coyote	+					7			
Black Bear	4								
Striped Skunk				1					
Mule Deer	12							1	3
White-tailed Deer							2		
Moose	1								
Elk	13								
Bison	10								
Bighorn Sheep	1							3	
TOTAL:	13			4		6	3	9	3

ALBERTA MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS, WINTER-SPRING '75 - '76

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Several hares were observed this winter. The Grade 5 and 6 class of Richard Secord School saw rabbit tracks in Rainbow Valley in Edmonton on 12 March. Snowshoe hares were seen on 15 December, 19 March, and 5 April in parkland habitat near Vegreville (EB and BB). One individual Snowshoe hare has been a frequent visitor to a residence in Sherwood Park in December, and January (PP). A white-tailed Hare was seen on 5 January in parkland habitat near the town of Andrew (EB). Four White-tailed Hares were found dead on the highway between Edmonton and the International Airport on 11 April.

A Pika was heard calling at Peyto Lake in Banff Park on 2 January (WR).

A Porcupine was seen on 1 February at Elk Island National Park in poplar forest (PP), and on 22 February 4 miles south of Miquelon Lake (GBBBE).

A Muskrat was seen near Willingdon on 9 December (EB). The antics of five observers (LP, SRJ, GS,JS, HJ, GE) were observed by one Muskrat near Tofield on 4 January and again on 1 April. Five Muskrats were seen resting on the ice of two ponds near Bittern Lake on 4 April (DT, CT).

A Beaver was seen below the Provincial Museum in Edmonton on 24 April (DW) and on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River near the Quesnell Bridge in Edmonton on 29 April (SJ). Many fresh Beaver cuttings can be seen along this river bank, especially along the trail between Emily Murphy and Mayfair Parks (DM).

The small mice and shrews are difficult to see because of their habits. However, if one is patient and observant a few species can be detected during the day. A Red-backed Vole was observed near Ministik Lake (near Deville) at the edge of woods on 4 April

(RC, PC). A shrew was seen in poplar forest near Onoway on 2 May (KK). The grade 5 and 6 class of Richard Secord School found a Magpie eating a mouse in Rainbow Valley in Edmonton on 12 May.

Several Red Squirrels were observed this winter and early spring. One was seen at the Hinton dump on 20 January (DW, JK). A Red Squirrel was sighted in Rainbow Valley on 12 March by the grade 5 and 6 class of Richard Secord School. On 15, 23, and 24 March a Red Swuirrel came to the balcony of an apartment on Windermere Crescent in the city on 17 March(CH). One to three Red Squirrels were seen on the Mayfair Golf Course on 24, 26, and 27 March (DW). The breeding behavior of two males and one female was not interrupted by the audience that gathered in urban Edmonton on 30 March (GS, SRJ, DH, LP, JS). One individual was seen on 133 Street and 102 Avenue in Edmonton on 17 March (SW) and 1 April (LW). A Red Squirrel was seen 8 miles south of Two Hills in parkland habitat on 7 April (EB). Seven individuals were observed in forest along the Whitemud freeway in Edmonton on 29 April (SJ).

Richardson's Ground Squirrels appear to have emerged in strength by mid-March. One was seen near the Sherwood Park freeway on 14 March (RCR). Another was seen at the Nature Center in Edmonton on 20 March (LW, DW). About 100 individuals were observed along the Calgary-Banff highway on 21 March (LP, TW) ; and about 150 individuals were seen on highway 2 from Calgary to Ponoka on 21 March (LP). One individual was seen east of Edmonton on 21 March (EB, BB, BRB). Ten individuals were seen near Ellerslie (LP) and three individuals were seen near Lake Wabamun (WR, GS) on 28 March. Another ten were seen 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of Vegreville on 29 March (BRB).

A Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel was seen on 17 April near the south shore of Beaverhill Lake (LB, PD).

A woodchuck was observed 53 miles east of Grande Prairie, and another was seen 4 miles west of Fox Creek on 28 April (DW).

A Least Chipmunk was observed 10 miles west of Winfield on 29 March (CT), and along the river bank in Mayfair Park on 9 April (DM).

A Mink was found dead on the road in Sherwood Park on 7 April (RCr).

A Red Fox was seen near the Black Nugget Reservoir near Tofield on 1 May (SJ). A Coyote with a missing hind leg was seen on the ice of the Bow River between Banff and Lake Louise on 2 January (DW, LW, WR). A Coyote was seen 3 miles north of Vegreville on 10 February (EB). Two coyote-like dogs with black coats and white chest-spots were seen with two Coyotes of normal coloration at The Banff garbage dump on 14 February (DM,RE). One Coyote was observed 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of Andrew on 15 March (EB).

An Elk was seen on the highway between Banff and Lake Louise on 2 January DW, LW, WR). Four doe and one buck Mule Deer were seen 3/4 east of Grande Prairie on 26 October (YM, WM). One buck and seven doe or yearling White-tailed Deer were ween in parkland-field habitats on 31 December, and one buck and three does were seen on 5 April, both sightings about 5 miles NW of Vegreville (EB, BB). On 4 April 3 White-tails were seen 2 mi SW of Ministik Hills Study Center and 9 White-tails were SE of Beaverhill Lake (BBe, JR). A cow and calf Moose were seen near Grande Prairie on 26 October (YM, WM). One Moose was observed 2 miles east of Hindbrook on 3 April (LB,RS). A Moose was seen near the Ministik Lake Bird Sanctuary on 6 April (RC, PC). A cow Moose was seen 4 mi NW of Niton Junction on 9 May (RE). 170 Pronghorn Antelope were observed near Redclife on 20 December (DW, LW).

CONTRIBUTORS

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING BIRD MIGRATION FOR SOUTHERN ALBERTA - 1976

by Rudi Butot,
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The drought which had already become well established in the Calgary area during the summer of 1975 continued into the spring of 1976. Sloughs that in previous years had held diving ducks were now shallow bodies of water with extensive mudflats frequented by shorebirds rather than waterfowl, while the shallow sloughs were bone dry. As far as birdwatchers were concerned this had both a good and a bad side. Although there were fewer sloughs to visit, those that still contained water had more than their usual share of shorebirds. This may explain some of the larger concentrations of both waterfowl and shorebirds seen this year during migration.

The first Common Loon for 1976 was reported from Strathmore on April 18, but only a few have been reported since. The Eared Grebe led off the grebe migration with three seen on April 16 near Bassano. This was followed by a single Horned Grebe and two Red-necked Grebes reported on April 17 from Keoma and Calgary respectively. Western Grebes, although bringing up the rear, were first reported from the Travers Reservoir - McGregor Lake area on April 30, in numbers over 1300. No Piedbilled Grebes were reported. Double-crested Cormorants were first reported from Brooks on April 27, a full month after the first Great Blue Herons were seen in Calgary. Black-crowned Night Herons were seen (3) at Namaka on April 16, while a lone American Bittern was seen in the same area on May 2.

No Trumpeter Swans were reported from southern Alberta this spring, but the first small flocks of Whistling Swans were seen in the Nanton - Connemara area on March 28. Their numbers soon swelled and by April 18 a large concentration of over 5000 birds was seen on the wetlands at the south east side of Frank Lake. The first Canada Goose had been reported on March 18 from Calgary. The only reported spring sightings of White-fronted Geese came from Carbon on March 27 where two were seen. Snow Geese were first seen in a flock of some

75 birds near Gleichen on April 16, while the last reported sighting was from Youngstown, where 7 were seen on May 29. These last birds appeared to be immatures, probably two year olds.

Mallards are always present in the thousands during the winter in Calgary and their spring migration is more heralded by seeing small numbers of pairs on the shallow spring puddles rather than by a sudden large influx. Not so for the Pintail. One day there is not a single bird of that species, while the very next day they are present in the thousands. In the fourth week of March this year these ducks arrived with reported sightings of flocks everywhere. Often numbering into the thousands at Blackie, Brant, Calgary, Carseland, Langdom, Namaka, and Mazeppa, to name but a few. The first Cinnamon Teal was reported from Calgary on April 10, and six to ten single pairs were seen during the following thirty days in places like Nanton, Namaka, Irricana, Langdon, Blackie, Calgary, Conrich, and Priddis. The first American Wigeon, as well as the first single Northern Shoveler were reported from Ensign on March 28, strangers in the multitude of Pintails. Two Wood Ducks were seen at Cochrane on April 11. Three Redheads were reported on April 8 from Irricana, while a single Canvasback at Connemara on April 3 was the first spring arrival for that species. A rare sighting of 5 male Greater Scaups was made on April 3 eight miles south of Strathmore, and a pair were reported from Calgary on June 5. A report of two Harlequin Ducks came from the area east of Lake Louise for May 6. The first Hooded Merganser was sighted in Calgary on April 16, while a Red-breasted Merganser had been reported from Keoma on April 11.

The first reports of raptors went as follows: Rough-legged Hawk at Aldersyde on March 19, Marsh Hawk at Herronton on March 20, Kestrel on March 28 from High River, Red-tailed Hawk on March 30 from Airdrie, Swainson's Hawk from Black Diamond on April 3, and a Cooper's Hawk from Black Diamond on the same day. Ferruginous Hawk from Rose-bud on April 4, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk from Calgary on April 29. Golden Eagles were quite numerous this spring, with a possible 31 birds reported, 22 adults and 9 immatures. The peak day was March 28 when 13 birds were seen migrating westwards along the Crossfield Creek valley near Kathyrn. Bald Eagles were also reported in numbers from 4 to 10, from places like Turner Valley on March 21, Sundre on

March 30 and 31, and Cochrane on March 14. The first Osprey of the spring was seen at Carseland on April 25.

Semipalmated Plovers returned on April 27 when four were seen in Calgary, while the first Black-bellied Plover was reported on May 16 from Irricana. The main influx, many hundreds, of the latter species were seen near Brooks on May 23. The first Long-billed Curlew was seen at Gladys on April 23, while five Pectoral Sandpipers on April 25 at Irricana formed the spearhead for that species in our area. The first spring Sanderling report came from Brooks on May 29 and Stilt Sandpipers were reported from Irricana and Delacour on May 23, three and one repectively. A rare sighting of six Hudsonian Godwits on April 23, and twelve on April 25 came in from Irricana, accompanied by the first two Marbled Godwits. Another rare sighting of three White-rumped Sandpipers was made on June 6 near Irricana, the full white tail band was clearly seen in all three.

Gulls and terns arrived in the following order; one California Gull on March 23 in Calgary, one Ring-billed Gull on March 28 near Ensign, five Herring Gulls on April 1 in Calgary, one Franklin's Gull on April 2 at Shepard, one Bonaparte's Gull on April 27 in Calgary, one Common Tern on May 2 at Namaka, and one Black Tern on May 8 also at Namaka. The first Mourning Dove was seen on April 4 in Calgary, and a rare sighting of a Band-tailed Pigeon was made in Calgary on May 3. A single sighting of the latter species was also reported from the same place (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary) last year.

The Eastern Kingbird was first seen on May 21 in Calgary, while the first Western Kingbird had been reported from Carseland on May 22. The Eastern Phoebe was first reported on April 18 from Cochrane, one day after a Western Wood Peewee had been sighted at Bassano. A Say's Phoebe was reported from Calgary one week later. Of the swallows the Tree Swallow was the first to arrive, one was seen near Cochrane on April 7. Of the remainder, the order of arrival was as follows; Rough-winged Swallow four in Calgary on May 6, Barn Swallow four at Chestermere on May 7, Cliff Swallow twenty five in Calgary on May 15, Bank Swallow eight at Irricana on May 16, and Purple Martin three at Mirror on May 23.

The first Brown Thrasher was seen in Calgary on May 23, while a Gray

Catbird was reported simultaneously from both Mirror and Calgary on May 24. Two Varied Thrushes on May 4 approximately twenty miles east of Lake Louise were the first reported ones. While a few American Robins wintered over in Calgary, sixty were reported from Calgary on April 13, with the first nest building reported for April 23, and the first full time nesting starting on May 3. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was back on its breeding territory by May 2, near Namaka, a full two weeks ahead of the first report of a House Wren, from Calgary. The first Mountain Bluebird was seen near Drumheller on March 27, while one month later the first spring Townsend's Sotitaire was reported from Conrich.

Of the vireos and warblers the first one sighted was a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Calgary on April 17, followed by a Northern Waterthrush on April 27. A Warbling Vireo was seen in Calgary on May 12 and a Red-eyed Vireo at Seebe on May 16. The first Western Meadowlark was reported from Drumheller on March 27, one day ahead of the first Red-winged Blackbird. A Yellowheaded Blackbird was not seen until April 10 at Brooks, the same day that the Common Grackle returned to Calgary. The Northern Oriole was first reported from Olds on May 12, while the first Western Tanager was seen in Calgary on May 10.

The earliest returning sparrows put in an appearance during April. One Song Sparrow in Calgary on April 8, followed by one Tree Sparrow at Seebe on April 10, one White-crowned Sparrow in Calgary on April 20, one Vesper Sparrow at Irricana on April 23, and one White-throated and two Lincoln's Sparrow in Calgary on April 27. The order for those arriving in May was as follows; one Savannah Sparrow at Conrich on May 1, one Chipping Sparrow in Calgary on May 6, Clay-coloured and Baird's Sparrow on May 15 in Calgary, one LeConte's Sparrow on May 16 at Millarville,one Harris' Sparrow in Calgary on May 21, and a Lark Bunting on May 23 near Conrich. Later reported species, probably because of distance from active birdwatching areas, were six Lark Sparrows near Burdett on July 3, and one McCown's Longspur on the same day near Vauxhall. Chestnut-collared Longspur on the other hand had already been reported from the Calgary area on April 4.

More detailed tabulations of the spring period can be found in the Calgary Field Naturalist bulletins of early summer 1976.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS FOR NORTH-CENTRAL ALBERTA: SPRING 1976

By John H. Acorn, 23 Wolf Cresenct, Edmonton

263 cards were received, representing 82 species.

GREBES, HERONS

Two Horned Grebes were seen at Saskatoon Lake on 27 Apr (DVW.YM). Great Blue Herons were first seen on 5 Apr near Galahad (1-KS), and again near Lac La Biche (2-18 Apr-DVW,LMW).

WATERFOWL

The first Whistling Swans of the year were reported on 5 Apr near Galahad (15-KS). Another flock of 97 was sighted at Saskatoon Lake on 27 Apr (DVW, YM). Four Trumpeter Swans were seen near Dimsdale (27 Apr-DVW, YM). Canada Geese were first seen on 28 Mar near Galahad (4-KS) and Botha (20-GG). Other reports were from Miquelon Lake (25-30 Mar-KS) Galahad (75-1 Mar and 188-4 Mar-KS). White-front Geese were seen at Galahad, Strome and Wetaskiwin (24-KS), subsequent reports were from Lac La Biche, Dimsdale, Wembly, and Camrose to Gwynne. The only reports of Gadwalls were on 17 Mar near Galahad (3-KS), and another pair on 6 Apr. The first Pintails of the year were seen at Galahad (5-20 Mar-KS); subsequent reports came from Lac La Biche, Saskatoon Lake, and Galahad. The first Green-winged Teal of the year were seen at (you guessed it) Galahad (6-5 Mar-KS), later arrivals were sighted at Lac La Biche, Dimsdale, and Saskatoon Lake. The only report of Blue-winged Teal was from Saskatoon Lake (4-27 Apr-DVW,YM). American Widgeon were first seen at Galahad (1-31 Mar-KS), the only other record comes from Saskatoon Lake (30-27 Apr-DVW,YM). Northern Shovelers were seen at Galahad (1-17 Mar and 1-3 Apr-KS) and Saskatoon Lake (5-27 Apr-DVW,YM). A female Wood Duck was seen on 10 Mar near Condor (WRK,LDR). Redheads were seen only at Galahad (5-17 Mar-KS). A single Canvasback was first seen at Galahad on 18 Mar-(KS) A single Canvasback was first seen at Galahad on -8 Mar-(KS). Later, at Saskatoon Lake DVW,YM reported 120 of these bay ducks on 27 Apr.

Greater Scaup were reported from Galahad (2-28 Mar-KS), as were Lesser Scaup (12-7 Apr-KS). Common Goldeneye were reported from Galahad (1,4 Mar-KS) and Lac La Biche (18 Apr-DVW,LMW). Buffleheads First appeared near Galahad (3-17 Mar-Ks), and were also seen at Fox Creek, Warspite, and Saskatoon Lake. The only Ruddy Ducks reported were from Galahad where 4 were observed by KS on 17 Mar. Lastly, seven Red-breasted Mergansers were present at Lac La Bich on 18 Apr (DVW,LMW).

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND FALCONS

Red-tailed Hawks were first seen this year in north-central Alberta near Galahad (5-1 Apr-KS), and a little later at Vegreville, Willingdon, and Lac La Biche. One Golden Eagle was seen at Moose Lake on 27 Mar by DVW and LMW. Bald Eagle reports were also submitted from Galahad (1-17 Mar-KS) and from Cold Lake (1 Mar-DVW,LMW). Marsh Hawks were seen at Gwynne and Ohaton (31 Mar-KS), Galahad, Lac La Biche and Debolt. Merlins were seen at Killam (27 Mar-KS), Cold Lake, and Bonnyville. American Kestrel were seen at Lac La Biche (9-18 Apr-LMW,DVW), and Dimsdale.

GROUSE, COOT

Ruffed Grouse were reported drumming at Galahad as early as 7 Apr (KS);other reports came from Lac La Biche and Dimsdale. Three Sharp-tailed Grouse were sighted near Botha (27 Mar-GG,PG) and Cold Lake (6-28 Mar-DVW). The only reports of Ring-necked Pheasants were from Galahad and Killam (21 Mar to 7 Apr-KS). Gray Partridge were reported from 27 to 30 Mar at Galahad, Botha, Andrew, and Vegreville. Fifteen northward migrating Sandhill Cranes were seen as early as 2 Apr at Galahad (KS), and another flock of 23 was sighted on 28 Apr near Little Smoky (DVW). One lone American Coot was seen near Galahad on 1 Apr.

SHOREBIRDS

Killdeers were first seen near Galahad (1-20 Mar-KS); other

birds were seen at Botha, Rolling Hills, and Galahad. Two Common Snipe were seen at Little Smoky on 28 Apr, and three Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at Lac La Biche on 18 Apr (DVW,LMW).

GULLS

Forty Herring Gulls were seen at Grande Prairie by DVW and YM on 27 Apr in the company of 7 California Gulls. Ring-billed Gulls appear on 7 Apr at Galahad, and later on 18 Apr at Lac La Biche. A single record of 4 Franklin's Gulls came from Dimsdale (27 Apr-DVW).

OWLS

Great Horned Owls were reported from Botha (1-27 Mar-GG,PG), Cold Lake (4-27 Mar-DVW,LMW), Dimsdale (1-27 Apr-DVW), Erskine (2-28 Mar-GG LL), Galahad (1-31 Mar-KS), Lac La Biche (9-18 Apr-DVW, LMW), Rolling Hills (3-29 Mar-WG), and Vegreville (1-21 Mar-FB). Snowy Owls were seen at Andrew (1-29 Mar-EB), Galahad (1-27 Mar and 1-7 Apr-KS), and Vegreville (1-6 Apr-EB). Sawwhet Owls were heard on 18 Apr near Lac La Biche (4-LMW,DVW), and near Dimsdale (1-27 Apr-DVW).

WOODPECKERS

Three Common Flickers were seen near Dimsdale on 27 Apr (DVW). Pileated Woodpeckers were well reported; cards coming in from Bonnyville (3-29 Mar-DVW), Cold Lake (3-28 Mar-DVW), Lac La Biche (1-18 Ap -DVW, LMW), Peace River (1-9 Mar-RP), Red Willow (1-27 Mar-GG,PG), an Winfield (2-29 Mar-DT). Hairy Woodpeckers were reported from Botha (1-27 Mar-GG,PG), Cherry Grove (1-28 Mar-LMW,DVW), Peace River (1-9 Mar-RP), and Red Willow (1-27 Mar-GG,PG). Sightings of Downy Woodpeckers were recorded at Botha (1-27 Mar-GG,PG), Cold Lake (1-27 Mar and 1-28 Mar-DVW,LMW), Dimsdale (1-28 Apr-DVW), and Red Willow (1-27 Mar-GG,PG). The only Northern Three-toed Woodpecker seen, was a female at Cold Lake (28 Mar-DVW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS

Both Say's and Eastern phoebes were seen on 27 Apr at Dimdale

(DVW,YM). Eleven Horned Larks were sighted on 28 Mar near Lessard, La Corez and Wolf Lakes (LMW, DVW). The only report of two Tree Swallow's came from Dimsdale (27 Apr-DVW). Gray Jays were reported from Cold Lake, Grande Centre, Lac La Biche, Peace River and Winfield. Blue Jay reports came from Cold Lake, Lac La Biche and Winfield. Black-billed Magpie were seen at Dimsdale, Fort Kent, Galahad (nest-building on 29 Mar-KS), Grande Centre, Lac La Biche, and Peace River. Common Ravens were seen from 27 Mar to 18 Apr at Cold Lake, Grande Centre, Lac La Biche, and Peace River. Common Crows were seen at Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Edmonton, Galahad, Granda Centre, Lac La Biche, Red Deer, Vegreville, Vilna, and Waskatenaw. Black-capped Chickadees were reported from Cold Lake, Dimsdale, Grande Centre, Lac La Biche, and Peace River. Reports of Boreal Chickadees came from Cold Lake (6-27 Mar-LMW,DVW), Lac La Biche (1-18 Apr-LMW,DVW), and Winfield (1-30 Mar-DCT). The only report of two Brown Creepers came from Cold Lake (28 Mar-DVW). The first American Robins of the year were seen on 27 Mar at Galahad (2-BG); subsequent reports came from Dimsdale, Lac La Biche, and Vegreville. Mountain Bluebirds were well reported,and observations were made Bawlf (3-24 Mar-KS) Daysland (1-24 Mar-KS), Galahad (2-28 Mar-BG), Vegreville (2-30 Mar-BB), Winfield (3-31 Mar-DT), Galahad (14-12 Apr-KS) and Vegreville (1-11 Apr-FB). One Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen near Red Willow on 27 Mar (GG,PG).

WAXWINGS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Bohemian Waxwings were seen on 28 and 29 Mar at Galahad and St. Lina. Northern Shrikes were seen at Botha (1-27 Mar-GG,PG), Strome (1-31 Mar-KS), and Winfield (1-31 Mar-DCT). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen near Galahad on 2 Apr (KS). Common Starlings were seen from 16 Mar to 27 Apr at Cold Lake, Dimsdale , Galahad, Grande Centre Lac La Biche, Vegreville, and Waskatenaw. House Sparrows were reported from Dimsdale Grande Centre, and Wetaskiwin.

ICTERIDS. FRINGILLIDS

Western Meadowlarks were seen at Botha (1-28 Mar-GG), Galahad (3-3 Apr and 1-2 Apr-KS), and Vegreville (1-8 Apr-EB). Red-winged Blackbirds made their first appearance on 5 Apr near Galahad, and were

seen on 7 Apr at Vegreville, and 18 Apr at Lac La Biche. Common Grackles were reported only from Lac La Biche (13-18 Apr-LMW,DVW). Evening Grosbeak were sighted on 9 Mar (3-RP) at Peace River, and on 28 Apr (2-DVW) at Cherhill. Pine Grosbeak were received from Peace River (3-9 Mar-RP), and Vegreville (6-10 Mar-EB). Common Redpolls were seen near Botha, Cold Lake, Galahad, Peace River, and Vegreville from 9 Mar to 4 Apr. No Hoary Redpolls were reported -- are they being watched for? Dark-eyed Juncos were first seen on 28 Mar at Galahad (1-KS); other reports were from Dimsdale, Lac La Biche, and Vegreville. Tree Sparrows were first seen on 27 Mar at Botha (GG,PG) and later at Galahad, Lac La Biche and Vegreville. One Fox Sparrow was sighted on 18 Apr at Lac La Biche (LMW,DVW). The first Song Sparrows were seen on 8 Apr near Galahad (5-KS), and another 14 were seen on 18 Apr near Lac La Biche. Lapland Longspurs were seen at Botha (20-27 Mar-GG,PG) and Galahad. Reports of Snow Buntings came from Botha (30-27 Mar-GG,PG), Galahad (28 Mar-KS), Killam (50-24 Mar-KS), Smoky Lake (300-6 Apr-EB), and Vegreville (50-2 Mar-EB).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alberta Naturalist

I would like to extend a personal congratulation to you and your staff for putting together the June/76 Alta. Nat. The content was very diverse. I especially liked the environmental flavoring, as indicated by articles by Smith & Case. I hope this will continue. I feel it was very much as good as the Blue Jay , for information & interest.

Sincerely,

Bob M. Fisher,
General Delivery
Elkwater, Alberta TOJ ICO

GOOD NEWS FOR FAN June 21, 1976

MR. Martin K. McNicholl
Publication Committee Chairman
Department of Zoology
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2E1

RE: Federation of Albert Naturalists

Dear Mr. McNicholl:

Further to your letter of March 25/76, I am pleased to advise that the Hon. Horst A. Schmid, Minister of Culture has officially recognized the Federation of Alberta Naturalists as the society in Alberta representing persons engaged in natural history until such time as another significant candidate for recognition should emerge. With this designation, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists is now eligible under Section 7 of Alberta Regulation 254/74 to apply for grants to assist in the publication of its periodical, the "Alberta Naturalist" and to assist in defraying the cost of presenting a lecture series, a seminar or a workshop.

I have taken the liberty of sending you duplicate application forms and the condition under which both of these grants are given.

Sincerely,

Judy Lindenas
Grants Officer

JL/mlr

NATURALISTS' BOOKSHELF (23)

The use of pesticides and herbicides in Alberta. Report and Recommendations. Alberta Environment Conservation Authority. 1976 x+ 208 pp., soft cover, free. Available from Environment Conservation Authority, 2100 College Plaza, Tower 3, 8215 - 112 Street., Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2M4.

This free book should be in the library of every naturalist and conservationist in Alberta, and read by all their non-conservationist friends. The book is a documentation of current biocide use in Alberta, with recommendations for the future. The Authority, when charged with this task, consulted scientists, held public hearings, conducted surveys, held more hearings and discussions, and finally produced an amazingly thorough and comprehensive volume. The benefits of using pesticides are presented in some detail, as are the hazards. The tone of the book, however, clearly indicates that the Authority recognizes our current abuse of the environment with over-use of these chemicals. FAN members will heartily endorse most of the recommendations resulting from the Authority's work. In addition to the comprehensive coverage, thebook can be lauded for its small number of errors. On p. 39 mucous membranes have become "membrances", and more seriously, the totals for two columns in Appendix II, table 1, p. 131 have been reversed, appearing to refute the Authority's conclusions based on the table. As an ornithologist, I was irritated to find the House Sparrow referred to as "English Sparrow" in an official report, and the reference in Chapter 1 to the development of new species is undoubtedly in error: strains or varieties intended.

The book consists of a letter of transmittal, acknowledgements, table of contents, a list of abbreviations and terms, the text, and six appendices.

The text is divided into two sections; the first an introduction; the second "Recommendations", in the form of nine chapters.

The introduction contains a brief history of the development of the Recommendations, including a summary of the hearings, type of public interest and participation, and basic dichotomy of viewpoints. Appendices I through IV supplement this chapter. These appendices contain a vast amount of sociological data on public responses to environmental issues. They are: "Information and Participation", "Summary of the Hearings", "Public Opinion Survey" (87% of Albertans surveyed considered the environmental effects of the use of pesticides to be an important issue), and "Tabulated summary of suggestions, recommendations and opinions presented in the hearings."

The nine chapters of part 2 each contain a discussion of a particular aspect of the use of biocides in Alberta, plus one or more (up to 47) recommendations, based on these discussions (Table 1), with a total of no less than 171 recommendations. The following paragraphs briefly describe each of the nine chapters.

Table 1

Recommendations in Each Chapter

Chapter Number	Number of Recommendations
2.1	15
2.2	16
2.3	35
2.4	1
2.5	47
2.6	19
2.7	15
2.8	1
2.9	22
TOTAL	171

Chapter 2.1 reviews "basic concepts and conflicts". The authors discuss the inherent conflict between attempting to maximize food production and attempting to maintain a healthy and intact environment. The improvements in short term production brought about by chemical means (fertilizers and biocides) are noted, but their long term effectiveness questioned. The Authority recognizes that some of Alberta's more productive farms do not use chemicals, and that many younger gardeners reject these products. The continued world growth of Mankind's populations is considered inevitable, and our moral obligation to help feed the starving is unquestioned. But the Authority does ask whether this obligation means we should help others to help themselves, or we should supply food directly to nations whose populations have exceeded the carrying capacity of their lands. The 15 recommendations in this chapter concern better integration of farming methods, long-term monitoring of the effectiveness and effects of methods used, and the desirability of maximum productivity at lowest environmental cost.

Chapter 2.2, "The balance of species", is a basic ecology lesson, stressing the Oxygen-Carbon Dioxide balance of animals and plants, and the fact that Man can control some species, but cannot control the total environment. The indirect and direct effects of pesticides on target and off-target organisms is stressed, with the overall superiority of biological control methods emphasized. Man is now in the dangerous situation of greater population growth rate than he can support, and is thus at imbalance with nature. The 16 recommendations stress the importance of maintaining Nature's balance (including Man), and the necessity of planning on a long term basis.

Chapter 2.3 on "Human health" contains a brief mention of health benefits brought to May by the use of biocides; then considers various health hazards posed by them. Thirty-five recommendations for avoiding or mitigating these hazards are given under various sub-headings. The chapter is supplemented by Appendix V, containing results for three years of federal monitoring tests on various foods in Canada. In this Chapter, the Authority takes a strong stand against secrecy of government and industry reports on studies of health hazards of biocides.

The Authority also criticizes the Medical researchers in Alberta for their general lack of concern and interest in research on health hazards of biocides.

Chapter 2.4 is a very brief summary of types of pesticide use in Alberta, and of who uses them. The one recommendation concerns the need for better over-all planning of this use.

Chapter 2.5 on "Agriculture and the rural environment" summarizes types of agriculture in Alberta, noting that a trend towards large monoculture farms should be reversed, as these cause greater need for pest control, and result in more pesticide use. The over-use of pesticides as a result of government programs and advertising is also stressed. Many sub-topics are discussed in this chapter, resulting in 47 recommendations. These reflect the greater need for testing both effectiveness and need of pesticides; need for better education of the farmer as to both the benefits and hazards of chemical control, plus the alternatives to it; and the need for greater emphasis of non-chemical control and integrated control practices.

Chapter 2.6 consists of a brief discussion of home use of pesticides, followed by a brief discussion on mosquito control, and finally a discussion of accidental killing of birds with biocides. The latter generated 12 recommendations.

Chapter 2.7, "Pesticides in trades, industry and manufacturing", discusses pesticides in nurseries and greenhouses, pesticides used by industry, primarily in clearing right-of-way, and the manufacture of pesticides. The chapter includes a critical discussion of the compulsory removal of weeds from farms, and a discussion of the practice of clearing rights-of-way, resulting in loss of bird habitat, snowdrifting and aesthetic loss. The latter topic is supplemented by Appendix VI by Ted Laidlaw, a paper showing that the effect of vegetation on snowdrifting is very complex. Unfortunately, the Authority did not offer any strong recommendation on a change in this practice, although such is implied by the text.

Chapter 2.8, "Chemicals and forest management" refers to the low level of use of biocides in forest management, with a recommendation that this not be increased.

Chapter 2.9, "Legislation, regulation and enforcement" reviews jurisdictions over registration, use, regulation and law enforcement as applied to biocides in Alberta. Numerous departments, intergovernment and intragovernment committees of both Federal and Provincial governments are involved. The remainder of the chapter consists of a discussion of some of the laws, with recommendations on improving them, and improving coordination among the concerned agencies. The Authority strongly advocates citizen involvement throughout.

In my opinion this is a fine document on which the Authority is to be heartily congratulated. I would have liked a stronger recommendation on roadside vegetation, and I found one recommendation on mosquito control alarming. The Authority recommended removal of breeding grounds of mosquitoes, rather than chemical control. I, of course, agree with the latter, but cannot support breeding ground removal if this infers extensive drainage efforts. Otherwise, I found the recommendations positive and strong, and hope that Albertans will support the Authority in requesting their implementation.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA (18)

Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

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FAN NEWS, REPORTS, PROJECTS, AND ATTENDANCE AT RELATED MEETINGS

NEWS

FAN RECEIVES OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT - See letters section.

ALBERTA NATURALIST - Lyman Matthews reports that printing of the AN is taking longer. Thus deadlines for receipt of material must be revised. I shall no longer have deadlines for articles, as these need not necessarily appear in the next issue, especially if they are more appropriate for inclusion with a known forthcoming article or in a special series of articles. The Editor now has about 30 outstanding invitations for articles and book reviews. Submissions for all news items shall be subject to the new deadlines. Untyped material will be accepted, but typed material is much preferred. Clubs are asked to submit material on a regular basis. New deadlines are: February 1 for the March issue, May 1 for the June issue, August 1 for the September issue, and November 1 for the December issue. Please also note the new address of the Editor.

"A Brush with Nature" - FAN's first art show, opened by President Dorothy Broadbent at the Edmonton Nature Centre on May 22, 1976, and held until May 30th, was a tremendous success, with 145 exhibits and 55 artists. The arrangement of the paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and other material was a piece of art in itself. One felt comfortable browsing about the Nature Centre in several rooms to see each item. Owls and roses were especially popular subjects. Dr. John M. Powell, who co-ordinated the work, the Nature Centre, and, of course, the artists, all deserve our special thanks for a job well done. We look forward to the next show!

RESOLUTION PASSED AT 19TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EDMONTON -- MAY 22, 1976.

"BE IT RESOLVED that FAN supports the Environment Conservation Authority Report and recommendations on coal exploration in Alberta."

Several other motions of importance were made at the meeting, and passed, but these were not in the form of formal resolutions. (See President's Page, following).

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Dorothy Broadbent

The F.A.N. Directors held their Spring executive meeting in the new Nature Centre in Edmonton. A choice of field trips was available for anyone not involved with the meeting. As usual, the Directors spent the whole of Saturday struggling through Federation business while everyone else enjoyed a beautiful spring day outdoors. I hope you all appreciate our sacrifice. An art exhibit, "A Brush with Nature" was on display at the Nature Centre. John Powell was responsible for organizing this successful venture.

David Spalding was present at the meeting, he discussed the format for the "Naturalists Guide." He also inquired if FAN was interested in placing a display depicting the Federation's history and activities in the Provincial Museum's Conservation Gallery. Any ideas or offers of help would be greatly appreciated by the executive.

Cam Finlay and John Powell have been responsible for obtaining an $8,000.00 Parks Canada grant. Two science students have been hired to produce a slide program called, "Know your Parks." They will be promoting Elk Island and Wood Buffalo Parks and hopefully F.A.N.

John Powell represents the Federation on three committees. He reported that the Study Group of the Public Advisory Committee of the Environment, is organizing a new study group to look at roadways and road referral systems. Resolutions and proposals should be submitted to John. The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee meets twice a year. One meeting concerns wildlife, the other concerns fish. If you have any wildlife concerns, direct them to John so he can discuss them with experts.

Mike McIvor gave a report of the Alberta Wilderness Association Conference. F.A.N. supports their proposal for a park or a reserve in the Swan Hills area. The Parks Canada reports on the Waterton Lakes Plan and the proposed Sunshine development are now available. Members should read and comment on these two important proposals.

Concern was expressed over the Assiniboia Resort Project in the Spray Lakes area near Canmore, just south of Banff National Park. They plan to accommodate 6,000 skiers, although the summer visitor impact will probably be more detrimental to wildlife. $150,000.00 has been spent so far on various studies. I believe the environmental inpact study is planned for the future.

F.A.N. is supporting the proposals to establish provincial parks in the Milk River and Porcupine Hills areas. We are formally supporting the biophysical inventory program, being conducted in the National Parks.

Mike McIvor is preparing a data sheet, to be used by people writing briefs regarding park developments.

I have also written to the Provincial Government and the E.C.A. supporting the recently released E.C.A. report and recommendations on coal exploration in this Province.

My letter to the Prime Minister regarding off-shore drilling in the Beaufort Sea produced a personal reply from the Honorable gentleman. He assured the Federation that the utmost precautions were being taken against environmental disaster. The leader of the N.D.P. Party sent a long letter agreeing with our concerns.

F.A.N. is still worried about the future of Canada's northern most breeding colony of pelicans. We have purchased a $5.00 membership in the "Pelican Portage Group" in the Slave River Lowlands near Fort Smith. Concerned naturalists may purchase a regular membership be sending one dollar.

A midsummer meeting organized by Lloyd Lohr and the Buffalo Lake Naturalists was held at Big Knife Provincial Park. This was simply a fun weekend, trips were organized around a power plant and a strip mine. We were shown various attempts at reclamation. The deposits of bentonite in the overburden was a problem because it prevented the rain from being absorbed into the ground, a serious problem in this semi-arid region. Some plants and shrubs were growing on the reclaimed land. Although this land was not suitable for agriculture, it would make good wildlife habitat. The coal company has offered to donate the land bordering on Big Knife Park to the Province. This reclaimed land has the potential for an excellent recreation area. Unfortunately their proposal has met with a lukewarm reception.

Dates for the 1977 Federation meetings have now been tentatively set, so mark them off on your calender.

February 12-13:-	Red Deer
May 21-22-23:-	Drumheller
July 16-17:-	Grande Prairie
September 17-18:-	Location Not Set ... Any Offers?

REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Joy Finlay, Chairman - May 13, 1976

1. Department of Environment is seeking an innovative person to assume the position of co-ordinator of Environmental Education. The Department of Education will offer assistance in selecting the candidate and advising on program development. The co-ordinator will plan workshops and compile materials to facilitate implementation of environmental education within Alberta's schools.

2. An Alberta Teachers Council on Environmental and Outdoor Education now exists, as of the inaugural conference held in March at Lake Isle. Man and the Land, an experiential workshop, limited to 30 teachers, is being planned for late August at the Stoney Indian Wilderness Centre.

3. As president of the A.T.A.'s Environmental and Outdoor Education Council, I attended an invitational seminar on "The Conserver Society." This seminar, held May 20 & 21, was sponsored by the Department of Education and Environment. According to the GAMMA report, as presented by Dr. K. Valaskakis and Professor P. Sindell from Montreal, the minimum conditions for a conserver society are:

   1) An introduction to reduce waste in production and consumption.

   2) A longer term orientation to future effects when decisions are made.

   3) An awareness and respect of ecological interrelatedness.

4. As an indication of how useful natural history information can be, I wish to refer to the Bow Valley naturalist's publication on the Yamnuska area. This publication was introduced to a Bow Valley corridor teacher at a workshop on Environmental Education in March. It will be an important reference to teachers there who are implementing school programs in outdoor and environmental education.

REPORT OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE

Dorothy Broadbent, Chairman - 10th May, 1976

This newly formed committee has received little input from the corporate members. I attended a meeting of the Environmental Study Group in Edmonton. Dr. Wood spoke about the Report of the Land Use Forum. I have dealt with this report in detail, it should be appearing in the Alberta Naturalist.

I also attended a meeting of the Dodds Roundhill Protective Association in Camrose. Speakers present were Len Bland from Unifarm, Professor Phil Elder spoke about environmental law and Dr. Robert Curry, Professor of Environmental Geology, University of Montana. He is a soils expert and an authority on strip mining. I found his speech so interesting that I have sent a report to the Alberta Naturalist. (See June issue - M.K.M.).

Letters have been sent on behalf of this Committee to Federal and Provincial Government Departments, the Prime Minister and the Premier on the following subjects:

1. Suffield
2. Ecological Reserves
3. Future of Cormorant Colony on Lake Newell
4. Supporting F. and W. Div. Lake stabilization and wetland habitat maintenance and their proposal to establish a sanctuary on Eight Mile Lake
5. We supported the Alberta Fish and Game Association resolutions regarding:

    a) Heritage Trust Fund
    b) Road allowances
    c) Wildlife habitat in each township
    d) Use of unused railways and waterways for wildlife habitat

This committee is interested in hearing from the clubs about any issues related to land use. Bow Valley Naturalists and Lethbridge have been the only clubs providing any input to this committee.

REPORT ON THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE FOR NATURE

MAY 1976, OTTAWA

Submitted by D.L. (Chip) Weseloh

The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) was held on 20 May 1976 at Carleton University. It was called to order at 8:15 p.m. and there were approximately 150 members present.

Dr. Mosquin reported that CNF membership was at 18,081, or slightl ahead of last year at this time. Mr. Bob Carswell reported that the revenues for the first quarter of 1976 stood at $91,000.00. This compares to a deficit of $34,000 for the same time last year and represents an increase in revenues of $125,000 since March of 1975. This pleasant financial statement came about through generous pledges by members ($90,000.00 in one year), other fund raising, increased memberships and by reducing "housekeeping" cost

Mr. Eric Solmon discussed the Development Program and Dr. Scotter presented the Report of the President (which will be printed in a future issue of Nature Canada). The election of CNF National Directors was held and Ms. Dorothy Beckel was chosen from Alberta. It was suggested that the CNF Provincial Representative should try to attend as many local society AGMs, in his or her province, as possible. This would facilitate local feedback to the CNF Board o Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The Symposium on Canada's Threatened Species and Habitats, sponsored jointly by CNF and the World Wildlife Fund (Canada), occupied the next two days (21 and 22 May). Concurrent scientific paper sessions were held on the subjects of mammals, birds, the marine world, natural communities and amphibians and reptiles. The quality of the papers was good, especially those in the marine world session. Mr. Richard Fyfe, Edmonton, also gave an excellent presentation on Peregrine Falcons and the captive breeding programme. Other notable speakers were Drs. John Theberg, Douglas Pimlott, Kees Vermeer, Robert Risebrough and Messrs. York Edwards, Clive Goodwin and Hugh Boyd. All papers will be published in the proceedings of the conference, hopefully before 1977.

The Symposium concluded with "recommendations from the conference" (see below). This wording of the recommendations was necessary because of the joint sponsorship of the conference. At a future date, the recommendations will be examined by the respective sponsors and considered for endorsement.

During the discussion of the recommendations (presented as motions) there was serious doubt on the part of many members of the audience concerning the validity of the numerous and superfluously worded motions. As a result of this situation some of the finally prepared motions were defeated. Numerous other motions were received from the floor but time did not permit all to be acted upon.

The evening banquet concluded the formal arrangements. Mr. Fred Bruemmer was the keynote speaker and gave a very interesting and moving illustrated presentation on the Arctic.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE FOR NATURE

1. That the subject of threatened and endangered species and habitats in Canada be placed on the agenda of the next Federal - Provincial Conference of First Ministers.

CARRIED

2. That the Federal Provincial Wildlife Conference strike a standing committee consisting of representatives of the Federal and Provincial governments and appropriate conservation and scientific organizations for the purpose of reviewing the status of endangered and threatened species and habitats in Canada.

CARRIED

3. That the Federal government make full use of its existing jurisdiction and powers to initiate programs of research and management on endangered and threatened species and habitats within the provinces.

CARRIED

4. That under the provisions of the Canada Wildlife Act the Federal government seek to enter into many more agreements with the provinces whereby more Federal funds would be available for research and management of threatened and endangered species and habitats under provincial jurisdiction.

CARRIED

5. That the Science Council of Canada make a study of ongoing research and research needs in the field of endangered and threatened species and habitats in Canada.

CARRIED

6. That the Federal government make funds available for the compiling of an annotated inventory of federal, provincial and municipal laws dealing with the protection of wildlife and habitats.

CARRIED

7. That the scope of the Canada Wildlife Act be broadened to explicitly include any species of flora or fauna of Canada, and in addition that the scope of Sec. 9 of the Act be broadened to refer to the protection of species that are threatened or potentially in danger of extinction or servere

reduction in numbers whether locally or generally. (Section 9 at present reads: ENDANGERED WILDLIFE 9. The Minister may, in cooperation with one or more Provincial governments having an interest therein, take such measures as he deems necessary for the protection of any species of non-domestic animal in danger of extinction).

CARRIED

8. That when appropriate wildlife management agencies accept as a general guiding principle the idea that one ultimate objective of the management program for any threatened or endangered species is to return the species or subspecies to its former distribution range.

DEFEATED

9. That the Federal and Provincial governments establish or review mechanisms to receive applications for funds for research to determine the status of species or groups that are possibly endangered or threatened.

DEFEATED

10. That Provincial and Federal governments give urgent attention to the establishment of significant nature reserves for the purpose of protecting unique and irreplaceable natural ecosystems, not just for Canadians but as a world resource for global use and study.

CARRIED

11. Whereas wildlife populations provide sensitive indicators of environmental quality, and whereas long-term base line information is required to assess and understand environmental change, and whereas we must rely mainly on governments for such long-term studies.

Therefore the conference urges the Federal and Provincial and Territorial Governments to ensure adequate funding for long-term base line studies of designated ecosystems and that these research studies and their findings receive critical initial and ongoing evaluation.

CARRIED

12. That since the major threats to all species are directly or indirectly caused by the increasing demands made upon the environment by man, steps should be taken immediately by the Federal Government to develop and institute a policy that will bring about a stabilized population and per capita resource utilization that can be sustained indefinitely.

CARRIED

13. That the Federal Government, through an amendment to the Criminal Code, ban the leg-hold trap as it is an indiscriminate and cruel method of trapping.

DEFEATED

14. That the Federal Government and the Territorial Governments give urgent attention to the establishment of basic terrestrial and marine research programmes throughout the Arctic Basin so that the effect of resource development programmes can be evaluated and their adverse effects mitigated.

CARRIED

15. Whereas we have knowledge that the Matagorda Island Air Force Base in Texas has been declared surplus to the needs of the U.S. Air Force, and whereas these lands of the Air Force lie adjacent to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and substantial parts of such lands are utilized by the Whooping Crane, an endangered species whose breeding grounds are in Canada, and other migratory birds for which our nations bear joint responsibility under the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1916, and whereas we have knowledge that the United States Secretar of the Interior has requested transfer of lands of Matagorda Island Air Force Base to the Department of Interior as a need ed addition to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, but the State of Texas has urged transfer of said lands to the State for purposes inimical to the preservation of the Whooping Crane and other migratory wildlife. Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Canadian Conference for Nature, the Canadian Nature Federation and the World Wildlife Fund (Canada), respectfully urge the Government of Canada to make strong representations to the United States Government in

support of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in this matter.

CARRIED

REPORT ON THE 40TH FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

John M. Powell

For the third consecutive year FAN was invited by the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife to send a representative to the 1976 Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference in Fredericton, N.B., July 6-8, 1976. The Conference was well attended by about 140 registrants and FAN was represented by my brother Graham, who sends notes and literature on the following discussion topics of interest to the naturalist:

Canadian Wildlife Service -- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which became effective in Canada on July 4, 1975, is gaining momentum. The legislation through which the convention is applied, is administered by Industry, Trade and Commerce, is enforced by Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise, and is applied and administered by Environment Canada, the provinces and the territories.

- A preliminary investigation of habitat requirements of moulting ducks in the prairies and parklands identified several key environmental factors affecting the distribution of moulting ducks. These factors are being studied in detail this year. Remote sensing imagery is being used to quantify the relationship of duck production to habitat characteristics in the parkland, and on the behavior of migrating field-feeding geese.
- Will be making increasing efforts on non-game migratory birds, especially shorebirds. The four young Whooping Cranes which were raised by the Gray's Lake Idaho Sandhill Crane foster parents, returned to Gray's Lake with the "Sandhills" this spring from the wintering grounds at the Bosque Del Apache Refuge, New Mexico. Fifteen eggs from Wood Buffalo National

Park were again this year placed under Sandhill Cranes at Gray's Lake. C.W.S. is taking further initiatives this year to determine the ecological and behavioral requirements of the wild Whooping Cranes summering in Canada.

- A long-term study of the Boreal forest grizzly bear in the Swan Hills was started in 1975, and a study of forest-wildlife interrelationships in the Foothills of Alberta was continued. Range requirements of bison and cattle on northern pastures continues near Fort Smith, N.W.T., and should provide information about competition between cattle and bison on sedge and grass ranges. A fur harvest review study was also continued in Wood Buffalo National Park.
- A wildlife census program is being developed for 14 prairies and western national parks.
- See recent issue of Native Canada for details of breeding of raptorial birds in captivity at Wainwright. The Tundra population of Peregrine Falcons has greatly decreased, compared to the 1970 survey results, and this race is now in serious danger.
- A Prairie Wildlife Interpretation Centre is being developed 16 miles west of Swift Current on the Trans-Canada highway. Facilities for the program should be completed by early winter.
- Since 1966, over 46,000 acres of wildlife habitat costing close to $9,000,000 have been acquired across Canada.
- Monitoring of the effects on songbirds of spraying to control spruce budworm in New Brunswick indicated kills of the order of 2-3 million occurred in 1975. Hopefully, mortality in 1976 can be reduced through alteration of spray regimes.
- A die-off of waterfowl at Beaverhill Lake, Alberta, last August was attributed to botulism.
- A national pilot study on the sociological characteristics of migratory game bird hunters has been undertaken. Also, they are designing a study to measure the attitudes and perceptions of urban dwellers towards wildlife.

- Two new films for distribution in the fall -- Whooping Crane and the Greater Snow Goose.
- Increasing problems re: Native claims to migratory birds - there is a need to know native use of birds so claims can be assessed.

Waterfowl Status Report -- Problems noted concerning census-taking versus habitat assessment - great need for the latter. In the west, hunters do not shoot enough ducks, this results in grain consumption problems.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -- Hope to introduce use of steel or non-toxic shot in the Atlantic flyway in 1976, Pacific flyway by 1978.

Committee for Humane Trapping -- increasing interest. Issue a quarterly Newsletter and have a pamphlet (Searching for a better way). Mechanical and biological testing is being done, will move into field testing of about 4 devices in the fall. Some 100 devices or ideas have been submitted. Expected that some results will be available in a year.

National Wildlife Week -- well received and well used. Material now available at the secondary school level. Need is for more provincial input in the preparatory stages. Proposed theme for 1977, "Wildlife Management".

Land Use Policy Panel -- Municipalities have the major influence on land use, it is there that concerns on habitat preservation, etc. should be raised. Provincial policies for control are being developed. P.E.I. has a 7-person Land Use Commission which is effective in settling land-use problems. Great need to preserve existing habitats and natural areas in the urban fringe by incorporating them into plans. No areas are currently zoned for wildlife habitat! Green areas need an ecological rationale. Plant for wildlife has corollary that plant species are diversified.

Evolution of Wildlife Harvesting Systems Panel -- Good coverage of history of hunting in the various regions included. More effective harvesting must be tried on a pilot basis.

Controlled burning is a need for "range" improvement. Are short of doing tangible things for naturalists and for instilling "naturalist" knowledge among hunters. These areas need to be developed - trails, viewing stands and guided tours, to encourage natural history interest. Also need to know more on non-game species, especially in or near suburban areas.

Task Force on Vertebrate Damage to Agriculture -- singled out four areas where research needs to be done.

1. Red-winged blackbirds versus grain, particularly corn.
2. Rodents versus grain, orchards and hay.
3. Waterfowl versus grain.
4. Black bears versus livestock and beehives.

Considerable opposition to this report on the grounds of lack of scope and late distribution: action on its recommendations has been postponed until the various provinces have had time to comment on it.

Committee on Ungulate Research and Management -- questions of game ranching and harvesting were raised along with the prediction that the increase in beef production may mean the reduction of land available for wild ungulates.

Polar Bear Administrative Committee -- Growing concern over concentrations of toxic chemicals and heavy metals in the Arctic ecosystem lead to the recommendation that the analysis of polar bear tissue be increased through the C.W.S. Recommended a cross-Canada allowable polar bear kill of 626 (508 in N.W.T.).

Recommendations -- A recommendation that created some controversy was the proposal by the Canadian Nature Federation that a standing committee be created for the purpose of establishing the status of threatened and endangered species and habitats in Canada. Concern was expressed that much of this work is already being done. C.W.S. has volunteered to look into the feasibility of such a committee.

- It was agreed that more formal participation by associated national non-governmental groups should become a feature of future conferences.

1977 Conference -- Winnipeg, suggested themes include "Federal-Provincial Wildlife Enforcement", "The Influence of Native Rights on Wildlife Management", "The Role of Wildlife in Economic Development", and "Intensive Management of Wildlife."

For anyone wanting more details of the Conference, the Transactions of the Conference will be available from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, probably sometime in the first half of 1977.

CLUB NEWS

Alberta Natural History Society:-

No report received. The Calgary Field Naturalist 8(2): 33 reports a field trip "in the west country" on August 22.

Bow Valley Naturalists:-

No report received. The Calgary Field Naturalist 8(2): 33 reports the following field trips as planned for BVN: July 24, Lake Minewakum; August 15, Burstall Lakes and Pass area; August 28, Crowfoot Pass and Balfour Lookout; September 19, Floe Lake.

Buffalo Lake Naturalists:-

No report received. They are now producing a good mimeographed newsletter, the Buffalo Lake Naturalists News Letter. The second issue, dated June 30th, 1976 contains a report of a meeting on March 18 with Marion Goldstrom as speaker, showing bird slides.

Four bird study nights were held in March and April. An "Early Bird" walk was held at Ewing Lake on March 28, an outing and hike in the Nevis area on April 11, a Sharp-tailed Grouse trip to Botha on April 25; a hike in the Pheasant Back area on May 27; a hike and meeting near Erskine on June 17; and a boat ride and hike to Heron Island on June 27. Mary Mulbach spoke about Indian diggings to a meeting on April 15.

Calgary Field Naturalists' Club:-

No report received. The Calgary Field Naturalist 8(2): 33 reports a planned meeting for September 15, with Derek Johnson speaking on "Wildlife Study of Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba." A bird study group field trip was planned for Inglewood on August 26, and a report of another at Fish Creek on May 26 is also given.

Edmonton Bird Club:-

No report received. Their first fall meeting will be a Members' Night and Annual General Meeting on September 17 at 8:15 p.m. in the Agriculture Building, U. of A. campus (2nd floor).

Edmonton Natural History Club:-

The Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award terms of reference have been slightly revised, as included here. These changes affect only administration of the award, and not the basis on which it is presented. ALL NATURALISTS IN ALBERTA should consider nominees. Please send your suggestions of deserving recipients to Martin K. McNicholl, c/o LOMBARD NORTH GROUP LTD., Calgary, Alberta T2P 1H7 by November 30, 1976. The first part of the ENHC winter program is reprinted here, as it will appear in the September Edmonton Naturalist.

LORAN L. GOULDEN MEMORIAL AWARD

Terms of Reference

1) The award will be presented annually.
2) The award will recognize a specific contribution to nature study in the province of Alberta by any person or group of persons.
3) All areas of natural history will be considered.
4) Preference will be given to persons actively engaged in the research or writing that is recognized by the award, but the award may also be given in recognition of a completed project.
5) Preference will also be given to amateur efforts, but the award may be given in recognition of professional work.
6) Except in cases where the award is given for publications, recipients of awards will be encouraged to publish the results of their work in an appropriate journal.
7) The award will consist of the annual interest on the Loran L. Goulden Memorial Fund.
8) A selection committee, chosen by the Edmonton Natural History Club, will administer the award.
9) The award will be presented by the president of the Edmonton Natural History Club at the Annual General Meeting of the club.
10) If no suitable candidate is found, the award need not be given in a particular year.

Selection Committee

1) The selection committee will be chosen by the Edmonton Natural History Club by September of each year.

2) The committee will consist of four persons. At least one member will be an Executive member of the Edmonton Natural History Club. At least one member will be professionally qualified to judge the merits of individual projects. As long as feasible, the committee will also include one person who knew well the interests and work of Loran L. Goulden.

3) The committee will call for nominations for the award during September. The call for nominations will include the terms of reference of the award. Nominations may be made by any naturalist in Alberta before the end of November. Nominations should preferrably include documentation supporting the proposed candidate.

4) The committee will judge the nominations to determine which (if any) should be given the award.

5) The committee will notify the winning candidate in advance of the award and invite him to attend the presentation.

EDMONTON NATURAL HISTORY CLUB WINTER PROGRAM, 1976-77

by Martin K. McNicholl
c/o Lombard North Group Ltd.
809 - 8th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

This year your executive decided to plan the winter lecture program well in advance, so that members could plan to attend well before the meeting. The program is now complete to Christmas, and much of it has been prepared beyond that. A few months have been left open until we are able to contact the

speakers we hope to be able to present to you. I shall announce these as soon as they are confirmed.

Sept. 14, 1976. JIM BUTLER, Head, Interpretation and Planning, Alberta Provincial Parks Department.

"A naturalist in the southern Appalachians"

Jim is relatively new to our province. Those who attended the FAN meeting last May in Edmonton will realize that he is a dynamic and versatile naturalist. He is one of five co-authors of a proposed book on the amphibians and reptiles of Alberta.

Oct. 12, 1976. AILENE HARMON, Banff's best known naturalist.

"Wild flowers of the Banff area"

Ailene is known province-wide for her excellent photographs of wild flowers. She has been prominent among conservation circles for many years, and was formerly a National Trustee of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada.

Nov. 9, 1976. DR. D.V. (CHIP) WESELOH, Curator of Ornithology, Provincial Museum & Archives of Alberta.

"The status of some Alberta waterbird colonies: cormorants, gulls, terns & herons"

Chip is well known to you all as Editor of the Edmonton Naturalist and author of numerous publications on Alberta nature. He is a former Editor of the Calgary Field-Naturalist, and co-author of a proposed book on gulls and terns of Alberta.

Dec. 14, 1976. DR. JIM R. SALT, Peregrine Research & Documentation, Ltd.

"Natural history of the Cardinal Divide, Alberta"

Jim is a superb photographer and keen naturalist who has worked in many parts of Alberta. He is currently writing a book on the mammals of Alberta, and co-authoring a book on the Fringillids of Alberta (with his father, Prof. W. Ray Salt).

The January meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, awarding of the Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award and Members' Night. DR. VICTOR G. LEWIN will speak on the amphibians and reptiles of Alberta, probably in March.

Further details will be forthcoming in the next FN.

HIGH RIVER NATURALISTS SOCIETY

by Greg Wagner
Site 2, Box 2, RR #3
High River, Alberta

Recently there has been confusion within the Executive of the High River Naturalists' Society, as our President, Mrs. Ruth Harrowing, is moving and several of our other members are away for the summer months. Thus, we shut down operations for the summer, resulting in a slow down of attempts at becoming a Corporate Member in FAN, but hopefully we will join the Federation in September. Despite these hindrances, many activities have been carried out by HRNS. The bird identification course run in February and the plant identification course run in March proved very successful and were enjoyed by all who took part. On Sunday, March 28, the HRNS and the Calgary Field Naturalists Society teamed up on a field trip in search of early spring migrants. At the July meeting, members of HRNS were treated to a lecture and slide show by members of the Great Divide Trails Association, an organization whose aims we strongly support. In late July a field trip was conducted in the Cataract Creek area. Despite the miserable weather, a good time was held by all and several species of alpine plants were found. We are still continuing to study the proposed bird sanctuary which lies in the Northeast corner of town, and have recently defined habitat types within the sanctuary. A study of the bird life of Frank Lake has also been initiated.

LETHBRIDGE NATURALISTS SOCIETY-SUMMER ACTIVITIES, 1976

by Helen Schuler

Field trips this summer have been much enjoyed by those attending them, with only one - the one to Lake Newell - being fouled up by rotten weather. The May Day Count was very successful, with 8 teams taking part, and reporting 67 plant species, 97 bird species, and 4 mammal species. A wiener roast topped off the day. A nice surprise on the Table Mountain Field Trip was the addition of Joy Finlay - in the vicinity as a resource person for an environmental education course. She added her teaching talents to enhance the trip. Wild flowers, including Red Lilies, highlighted the Stavely trip, as they did the Plateau Mountain trip - for once done in clear, sunny weather.

There are several more field trips planned for August and September, as well as one in October to see the Kokanee Salmon run - with accompanying sightings of Grizzly and Bald Eagle. Details will be announced later.

Between field trips, briefs on Sunshine Village Development were prepared and sent in.

NORTHERN ALBERTA NATURE CLUB

by Moira Sheehan
P.O. Box 657
Grande Prairie, Alberta
T8V 3A8

Her concern about the lack of documentation of wildlife in the northern part of the province led Mrs. Yvonne MacAlister to call an organizational meeting for interested persons on April 27, 1976. She had enlisted the assistance of Mr. Chip Weseloh of the Provincial Museum of Alberta. The meeting gathered 17

persons from throughout the area to the Lake Saskatoon Hall. Since then the list of interested persons has expanded to 35. There have been monthly field trips and meetings to discuss desired activities, roles and objectives of the club, and to share natural experiences. Our objectives include contributing to the documentation of wildlife in our area, locating sites conducive to satisfying wildlife observations, and developing expertise in observation and identification of wildlife. (Such skills will be worked on during winter meeting). Everyone is particularly inspired by our famous summer resident, the Trumpeter Swan.

We are all very pleased to have been so cordially welcomed by FAN.

CONSERVATION NOTES AND NEWS

NOTE: For Conservation matters, see also articles on the Great Divide Trail and White Pelican; the book review; Resolution on FAN News page, President's Page, Land Use Committee Report, and reports by Drs. Weseloh and Powell.

Sunshine Village:-

On 8 June 1976 the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada issued a press release sharply denouncing the announcement by Parks Canada of a massive development at Lake Louise. In a Special Bulletin issued by the Edmonton Chapter of N.P.P.A.C., attention was drawn to the even more serious issue of the absurdly short time period allowed for comment - a public meeting to be held 10 days after the announcements, and written submissions due by July 5. Further evidence of the pure lip-service nature of the public involvement comes from the failure of Judd Buchanan or his office to even acknowledge a telegram from N.P.P.A.C. requesting information by which they could comment, according to "Parks for Tomorrow", June 1976.

Elk Island:-

An information book on plans for Elk Island National Park is available for the public to offer written comments, according to "Parks for Tomorrow", April 1976. These may be obtained from Parks Canada Western Region, 131 Customs Building, 11th Avenue & 1st Street, S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 0X5. No hearings appear to be planned.

New Canadian Energy Policy:-

A new Energy Policy for Canada has been announced, purporting to emphasize self-reliance in energy. According to "Ottawa Report" for June 1976, a critic from the Canadian Wildlife Federation finds that rapid development is still favoured over conservation.

Suffield:-

According to the April issue of "Parks for Tomorrow", the agreement between the Departments of Defence and Regional Economic Expansion to allow grazing at Suffield in years of drought is still in effect.

Banff:-

"Parks for Tomorrow", June issue reports a communication from Judd Buchanan that no decision has yet been made on twinning the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff.

Syncrude:-

The June issue of "Ottawa Report" states that a previously unknown Federal-Provincial Committee to assess air pollution has been in existence for two years, but has not yet issued its recommendations.

Marmot Basin:-

The Edmonton Chapter of N.P.P.A.C. was recently invited to submit its views on downhill ski development of Marmot Basin in Jasper to the Western Region of Parks Canada. The Chapter strongly disagreed with such plans, and is now working with

the Calgary Chapter to formulate a general policy on ski facilities in National Parks, according to the June issue of "Parks for Tomorrow."

Assiniboia:-

The June issue of "Parks for Tomorrow" notes that a large recreation centre is planned just outside Kananaskis Provincial Park. If approved, this could be the largest ski facility in Canada, and would also include summer facilities.

NOTES AND NEWS

Birds of Alberta:-

The third edition of "Birds of Alberta" by W. Ray Salt is currently scheduled to appear in September of this year. Prof. Salt tells me that it has been extensively revised, with numerous new photographs. We all look forward to its appearance.

North American Bird Banding:-

Vol. 1, No. 1 of this new journal, the result of a merger between two banding journals (see June A.N.) has now appeared. Alberta banding efforts are eligible for publication in this journal.

New Book on Urban Nature:-

The Canadian Nature Federation has announced the publication of a new book, "Nature and Urban Man", the proceedings of the 1974 CNF Conference. The book is available from CNF, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontarion K1P 5K6 for $4.00 + 35¢ for postage and handling. Two Alberta chapters are included (see Kerr and Spalding reference in Recent Literature list, this issue A.N.). A review by D.V. (Chip) Weseloh is slated for the December A.N.

News from N.P.P.A.C. Alberta Chapters:-

The April issue of "Parks for Tomorrow" lists new Executives for the Alberta Chapters of N.P.P.A.C. Graham Seagel is the new Chairman of the Calgary-Banff Chapter; Ross Hodgetts the new Chairman of the Edmonton Chapter.

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Deadlines for submission of material to the Editor are: February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. Please include your address. All maps, charts, etc., should be submitted on white paper, of the appropriate size for publication, preferably done in type and/or india ink.

FAN membership fees are $2.00 per year regular, $10.00 supporting, tax deductible ($8.00 worth). Mail remittance to: Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Box 1472, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N5.

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Directors at the Fall FAN meeting in Calgary approved the subscribing membership rate be increased to $3 per year, effective January 1, 1977. If your present membership expires with the December 1976 issue of the Alberta Naturalist, the address label will show the notation "D76" on the upper right hand corner. The renewal should be made in the amount of $3. Supporting memberships are still $10 or more per year, amounts in excess of $3 being tax deductible.